E/2005/34/Rev.1
E/ICEF/2005/5/Rev.1

United Nations

Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund

Report on the first, second and annual sessions of 2005

Economic and Social Council
Official Records, 2005
Supplement No. 14 (E/2005/34/Rev.1-E/ICEF/2005/5/Rev.1)

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United Nations • New York, 2005

Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures.

ISSN 0252-3507

Contents

			Paragraphs	Page
Part one				
First regular session of 2005				1
I.	**Organization of the session**		1 – 7	2
	A.	Election of officers	1	2
	B.	Opening statements	2 – 5	2
	C.	Adoption of the agenda	6 – 7	2
II.	**Deliberations of the Executive Board**		8 – 80	3
	A.	Briefing on the UNICEF response to the Indian Ocean earthquake/tsunami disaster	8 – 11	3
	B.	Annual report of the Executive Director to the Economic and Social Council	12 – 24	4
	C.	Approval of revised country programme documents	25 – 26	6
	D.	Girls' education: oral report	27 – 32	7
	E.	Immunization "plus": oral report	33 – 36	8
	F.	Global Immunization Vision and Strategy: oral report	37 – 39	9
	G.	Staff security: oral report	40 – 44	10
	H.	Follow-up to Executive Board decision 2004/8 on joint programming	45 – 48	11
	I.	Private Sector Division (PSD): work plan and proposed budget for 2005	49 – 52	12
	J.	Financial report and audited financial statements for 2002-2003 and the report of the Board of Auditors	53 – 58	12
	K.	Pledging event	59 – 60	13
	L.	Other matters	61 – 77	14
	M.	Closing of the session	78 – 80	17
III.	**Joint meeting of the Executive Boards of UNICEF, UNDP/UNFPA and WFP**		81 – 105	18
	A.	Children and women affected by HIV/AIDS	82 – 87	18
	B.	Gender	88 – 92	19
	C.	Transition from relief to development	93 – 98	21
	D.	Simplification and harmonization	99 – 105	22
Part two				
2005 annual session				25
I.	**Organization of the session**		106 – 111	26
	A.	Opening of the session	106 – 109	26
	B.	Adoption of the agenda	110 – 111	26
II.	**Deliberations of the Executive Board**		112 – 238	27
	A.	Annual report of the Executive Director	112 – 123	27
	B.	Review of the draft MTSP for 2006-2009	124 – 141	29

	C.	Proposals for UNICEF programme cooperation	142 – 181	32
	D.	Progress report on implementation of decision 2002/4 on approval of country programmes	182 – 185	40
	E.	Report on internal audit activities in 2004	186 – 193	40
	F.	Child protection: oral report	194 – 197	42
	G.	HIV/AIDS: oral report	198 – 200	43
	H.	UNICEF health and nutrition strategy: oral report	201 – 205	43
	I.	UNICEF/WHO Global Immunization Vision and Strategy (GIVS)	206 – 209	44
	J.	UNICEF and post-conflict transition: oral report	210 – 215	45
	K.	UNICEF follow-up to General Assembly resolution 59/250 of 22 December 2004 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system: oral report	216 – 221	46
	L.	Reports on field visits	222 – 234	47
	M.	Address by the President of the UNICEF Global Staff Association	235	49
	N.	Other matters	236	50
	O.	Closing statements	237 – 238	50
Part three				
Second regular session of 2005				51
I.		**Organization of the session**	239 – 245	52
	A.	Opening of the session	239 – 243	52
	B.	Adoption of the agenda	244 – 245	53
II.		**Deliberations of the Executive Board**	246 – 342	53
	A.	Decisions taken by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2005 that are of relevance to UNICEF: oral report	246 – 249	53
	B.	Medium-term strategic plan for 2006-2009, including the financial medium-term plan	250 – 260	54
	C.	Summaries of mid-term reviews and major evaluations of country programmes	261 – 292	56
	D.	Proposals for UNICEF programme cooperation	293 – 318	62
	E.	Innocenti Research Centre: progress report and proposed activities for 2006-2008	319 – 321	67
	F.	UNICEF follow-up to recent consultations of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board	322 – 324	68
	G.	Additional support budget allocation for 2005 for increased security costs	325 – 326	69
	H.	Advance support budget allocation for January 2006	327	69
	I.	PSD financial report and statements for the year ended 31 December 2004	328 – 330	69
	J.	Interim financial statement for the year ended 31 December 2004, the first year of the biennium	331	70
	K.	Report to the United Nations Board of Auditors and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions	332 – 335	70
	L.	Programme of work for Executive Board sessions in 2006	336	71
	M.	Report on field visit to Morocco	337	71
	N.	Other matters	338 – 340	71
	O.	Closing of the session	341 – 342	72
Annex		**Decisions adopted by the Executive Board in 2005**		73

Part one
First regular session of 2005

Held at United Nations Headquarters from 17-20 and 24 January 2005

I. Organization of the session

A. Election of officers

1. The Executive Board elected as President H.E. Mr. Mehdi Danesh-Yazdi (Islamic Republic of Iran), and as Vice-Presidents H.E. Mr. Paul Badji (Senegal), Mr. Uladzimir A. Gerus (Belarus), Ms. Romy Tincopa (Peru) and Ms. Unni Ramboll (Norway).

B. Opening statements

2. The Executive Board observed a moment of silence in memory of the victims of the recent natural disasters in Southeast Asia, Africa and the United States, and the children and women affected by violent conflict in war-torn parts of Africa.

3. The President said that the world faced enormous challenges affecting children, including poverty, AIDS, conflict and the critical issues of violence and exploitation. Natural disasters also affected children, as witnessed by the tsunami disaster and the Bam earthquake, which had struck one year ago. In this context and that of the Millennium Development Goals, the Board had an important agenda for the year, especially the next UNICEF medium-term strategic plan, which the Board would approve in September.

4. The Executive Director recalled that at the Board's second regular session of 2004, she had said that it was hard to imagine the sheer scale of the suffering caused by the tragedies in Beslan and Darfur. Yet, the tsunami was a "whole new order of the unimaginable". The devastation left by the tsunami underscored the growing burden that humanitarian crises placed on organizations like UNICEF. The environment in which UNICEF staff worked had become more complex, more politicized and more dangerous. UNICEF also continued to focus on such issues as protection of children in armed conflict, HIV/AIDS, gender bias, child labour and commercial sexual exploitation. Confronting threats to child survival and development remained the solemn mandate of UNICEF, and UNICEF would continue to re-invent itself as an ever more effective organization for children in a changing world.

5. The outgoing President, H.E. Lebohang Moleko (Lesotho), thanked the Executive Director for her work on behalf of children, especially in the wake of the tsunami crisis, adding that UNICEF must continue to advocate on behalf of orphans and other children affected by HIV/AIDS, a situation that was in itself a humanitarian crisis.

C. Adoption of the agenda

6. The Executive Board adopted the agenda, timetable and organization of work (E/ICEF/2005/1) for the session, as amended.

7. In accordance with rule 50.2 of the rules of procedure, the Secretary of the Executive Board announced that credentials had been submitted by 51 observer delegations, 2 United Nations bodies,

1 intergovernmental organization, 4 National Committees for UNICEF and the NGO Committee on UNICEF.

II. Deliberations of the Executive Board

A. Briefing on the UNICEF response to the Indian Ocean earthquake/tsunami disaster

8. The Executive Director briefed delegates on the UNICEF response to the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster. The presentation, preceded by a short film, focused on activities in the immediate relief phase. UNICEF had been able to respond rapidly largely because it had had pre-existing programmes in all affected countries. Strong United Nations country teams, coordination among agencies and the decisive leadership of affected governments helped to ensure a timely, effective response. Nevertheless, the large-scale damage had destroyed pre-positioned supplies and had hampered access. UNICEF had assumed leadership in several sectors, including water and sanitation, education and child protection. There were relatively few unaccompanied children, a fact that likely reflected a higher mortality rate among young children than was initially estimated. Reports of trafficking, though requiring vigilance, were as yet largely unsubstantiated. The recovery phase was already under way in some areas, and UNICEF had begun to plan for long-term rehabilitation.

9. Delegations congratulated UNICEF on its rapid response, saying that UNICEF had shown itself to be a credible partner in disaster relief, and the profile of the agency and its Executive Director in the immediate aftermath was to be commended. Representatives of some of the affected countries cited immunization campaigns and efforts to get children back to school. Requests were made for additional information on long-term plans. Specific concerns were expressed over issues of staffing, disbursement of non-food relief items, and child protection. Several delegations noted the need to preserve this momentum and plan early for long-term response. Some delegations outlined their respective countries' responses to the crisis, with several announcing substantial contributions to UNICEF for relief efforts.

10. Concern for separated and unaccompanied children was a near-universal theme. Speakers called repeatedly for vigilance against trafficking and exploitation and rapid registration of children, with several delegations acknowledging the effective response of UNICEF in child protection. Delegations also said that the organization's valuable experience in Afghanistan would help guide back-to-school initiatives.

11. The Executive Director acknowledged the challenge of ensuring rapid deployment of qualified staff, particularly in sectors where UNICEF was asked to play a leadership role. However, UNICEF had taken steps to facilitate adequate support for country offices. Similarly, since the movement of displaced persons is expected to create a 'second wave' of supply needs, UNICEF and its partners were doing everything possible to ensure rapid, coordinated disbursal of non-food relief items. Discussions on orphaned children were premature until detailed assessments could be completed. Accordingly, UNICEF supported the strong positions adopted by affected Governments regarding fostering and adoption standards. Of more immediate concern were the psychosocial

needs of affected populations, an immensely complex problem with long-term implications. UNICEF had been coordinating with its partners to ensure an effective response. The Executive Director assured delegations that planning for the future had already begun in earnest. Long-term responses to the tsunami crisis would be built into country programmes, utilizing the opportunity not only to rebuild what had been destroyed but to improve upon what existed before.

B. Annual report of the Executive Director to the Economic and Social Council

12. The Executive Board had before it the annual report of the Executive Director to the Economic and Social Council (E/2005/6-E/ICEF/2005/3) and a note by the secretariat on reports of the Joint Inspection Unit of interest to UNICEF (E/ICEF/2005/4), both of which were introduced by the Director, United Nations Affairs and External Relations. The Director also provided a briefing on events since the document was finalized, including the adoption of General Assembly resolution 59/250 of 22 December 2004 on the triennial comprehensive policy review (TCPR) of operational activities for development of the United Nations system. The resolution reaffirmed progress made to date and provided guidance for building on previous actions. The Assembly had decided to hold a High-level Plenary Meeting on progress made in implementing the Millennium Declaration and the Secretary-General had presented the report of the High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change. Implementation of the resolution as well as decisions to be taken by the intergovernmental machinery would be handled in a coordinated manner within the context of the workplan of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) Executive Committee and guidance provided by the Chief Executives Board for Coordination.

13. Regarding the proposal for joint office models for Cape Verde and the Maldives discussed in the report, he said that because of the recent tsunami disaster in the Indian Ocean area, the Maldives would no longer be part of the exercise. UNICEF would propose to UNDG Executive Committee partners that the regional teams of the UNDG select a replacement and/or additional countries.

14. A number of delegations said that the report was comprehensive, concise and thought provoking. A few asked that in its next report, UNICEF strengthen the focus on analysis, including challenges. Delegates congratulated UNICEF for integrating commitments made at the Special Session on Children into national plans. A number of speakers commended UNICEF for its responsiveness to the needs of women and children, especially following the tsunami disaster, including mobilization of resources and provision of immediate relief to the affected populations.

15. Delegations noted progress towards the reform agenda, especially efforts to improve country-level delivery, and urged UNICEF to pay special attention to such challenges as building local capacities for addressing child protection issues and translating human rights principles and tools into concrete programming instruments. They welcomed progress made in bringing cohesion to the functioning of the system at the country level and in aligning UNICEF operations with the development agenda of the major United Nations conferences, in particular those of the Millennium Summit. Speakers urged UNICEF to continue its engagement in the development of policy frameworks and welcomed increased efforts on HIV/AIDS, and its participation in the World Bank's Fast-track Initiative in achieving the goal of Education for All (EFA).

16. Turning to the TCPR, delegations said they looked forward to the briefing during the annual meeting of the Executive Board in June, when there would be a lengthy discussion. A number of speakers stressed that capacity development and country ownership were essential in achieving the Millennium Development Goals and said that the United Nations should support national Governments in these efforts. Speakers expressed appreciation for the UNICEF commitment to the fundamental principles of operational activities, namely neutrality, multilateralism and the ability to respond to development needs of recipient countries. A number of delegations noted with concern the low number of UNICEF staff members serving as resident coordinators, and encouraged UNICEF to contribute to the strengthening of the resident coordinator system.

17. Speakers agreed with the report's findings that the involvement and coordination with regional structures should be improved to increase support for United Nations country teams and called for further harmonization of responsibilities of regional teams. They also expressed support for the need to integrate issues arising from conflicts in common country programming, an exercise that should also be carried out in countries in transition. Many delegations welcomed harmonized modalities for resource transfers, as they would reduce transaction costs for government counterparts, and also welcomed reforms being made to allow UNICEF to participate in forms of resource pooling arrangements, including sector-wide approaches to development (SWAps). Others noted the importance of maintaining clear lines of accountability and oversight through the use of transparent processes. Responding to a concern that country offices were not able to participate in new pooled funding arrangements, the secretariat said that country offices have the necessary flexibility.

18. Concerning joint programming, some speakers said that the initiatives seeking greater coherence and streamlining of operational activities would result in lower transaction costs for national counterparts. Others said that while this was important, organizational innovations should not become a goal in themselves. There was also a need for flexibility in implementation. Application of the Common Country Assessment (CCA)/United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) should be fully aligned with national priorities and applied only after careful analysis and dialogue with national Governments. Speakers said that the results-based matrices had improved, but more needed to be done. They also welcomed work on poverty reduction strategy papers (PRSPs) and other policy frameworks. The secretariat said that the CCA/UNDAF guidelines were open for revision based on lessons learned.

19. A number of speakers said that efforts to improve monitoring should be sustained using clearly defined and agreed indicators. Others emphasized that the development of indicators was an important and sensitive process which should be undertaken with full intergovernmental consultation and agreement. A delegation expressed satisfaction that the promotion of increased research through international scientific efforts, as well as adaptation of emerging technologies to local conditions, was one of the key outcomes of the United Nations Millennium Project. UNICEF could participate in support for global scientific research in order to address the special needs of the poor in areas related to its mandate, e.g., health and education.

20. Many delegations stressed the need to ensure children's rights. Other delegations favoured a results- or evidence-based methodology to determine programme priorities, instead of a "human-rights" based approach. They were concerned that the "rights-based" approach, while admirable, was undefined, and that the Board had a responsibility to use the MTSP as a vehicle for conveying to UNICEF a clear set of priorities and benchmarks, using the Executive Director's words, "to turn goodwill into action". One delegation expressed concern over any shift from the problems of economic growth to a human rights-based approach to programming, as this could distract from matters of development.

21. Delegates expressed the importance of having a strategy to address gender-based violence, including female genital mutilation. They welcomed UNICEF work in gender mainstreaming and stressed the importance of adopting a strategic, results-oriented and gender-sensitive approach at the country level.

22. Delegates noted the positive trend in regular resources levels over the past three years, but expressed concern over the decline in the proportion of regular resources to total resources and agreed with the report's findings that UNICEF depends on unrestricted resources for an effective global presence.

23. Speakers appreciated the strengthened cooperation with the World Bank, including through such multisectoral programmes as the Child Survival Partnership. The secretariat said that collaboration with the World Bank had intensified, as had work on PRSPs, with country teams closely involved in 30 countries and on a more limited level in 20 countries.

24. See annex, decision 2005/1, for the decision adopted by the Executive Board. The Board also took note of the report on the JIU.

C. Approval of revised country programme documents

25. The President said that in accordance with decision 2002/4, the Board had commented on the draft country programme documents (CPDs) and approved the aggregate indicative budgets for 22 country/area programmes at the annual and second regular sessions of 2004. The draft CPDs were then revised, taking into account, as appropriate, comments made by delegations during that session and a summary results matrix was added. The revised CPDs were posted on the UNICEF website by 1 November 2004. Decision 2002/4 also stated that the revised CPDs were to be approved by the Executive Board at this session on a no objection basis, unless five members informed the secretariat in writing, by 10 December 2004, of their wish to bring any country programme before the Board. Because no such comments had been received, the county programmes for Angola, Burundi, Madagascar, Zimbabwe, Cape Verde, the Southern Cone (Argentina, Chile, Uruguay), Malaysia, the Philippines, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq and Guatemala were approved.

26. The representative of Burundi said that the North of his country was affected by a severe drought, and called on UNICEF and other partners to assist children affected by this calamity. The representatives of the Philippines and Serbia and Montenegro expressed appreciation for their cooperation with UNICEF. A speaker said that the revised CPD for Romania did not reflect the latest developments concerning inter-country adoption, as the country's new law had entered into force on 1 January 2005. Another delegation said that as a whole, the CPDs presented this year, many of which were based on CCAs/UNDAFs, furthered United Nations reform.

D. Girls' education: oral report

27. Following a short video clip from UNICEF India focusing on the plight of children denied access to school, the Chief of the UNICEF Education Section presented key issues, actions and impacts of the work of UNICEF in girls' education. The organization's focus on girls' education contributed to achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the goals of EFA and those outlined in *A World Fit for Children*, the document adopted by the General Assembly's Special Session on Children. UNICEF aimed to support access to, and completion of, quality education for all children as their basic human right and a means to leverage gains in other sectors. The presentation highlighted broad issues and challenges in the technical design of quality interventions in diverse settings; advocacy around promotion of girls' education as an entry point into EFA; resource mobilization; leadership for the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI); and the prioritization of girls' education within SWAps.

28. Considerable gains have been made in education access and quality, including through the promotion of "child-friendly" schools; the creation of safe spaces and back-to-school campaigns in emergency and post-emergency settings; acceleration efforts in 25 countries at highest risk of failing to meet the gender parity goal; intersectoral approaches; and the introduction of life-skills-based education linked particularly to HIV/AIDS prevention. Intensive fund-raising efforts had mobilized significant resources from key partners, but more such efforts were required for effective UNGEI partnerships at country and regional levels. UNGEI was increasingly recognized as the main partnership framework for girls' education within EFA and the Millennium Development Goals. The way forward includes placing a greater emphasis on the UNGEI contribution to wider development processes, including a clarification of the role of UNICEF in these efforts; a reinforcement of the strategic focus of UNICEF on gender as a means of addressing rights and disparities; heightened attention to early learning; continued intersectoral collaboration; and strategic movement beyond access and gender parity issues to the challenges of quality and gender equality.

29. Many delegations acknowledged progress made in girls' education, expressing appreciation for the efforts of UNICEF and the work of the wider UNGEI partnership. Several speakers highlighted in particular the headway made in emergency and post-conflict situations. A number of delegations emphasized the importance of costing and scaling up initiatives; of applying lessons learned from experience within broader national education systems; and of mainstreaming gender in major sectoral initiatives, highlighting the primacy of country-led strategies. In this regard, delegates asked for more information on the UNICEF role within SWAps and the EFA Fast Track Initiative (FTI).

30. Delegates expressed support for, and requested more information on, plans to strengthen the UNGEI secretariat, an effort considered vital to the role and mandate of UNICEF as a leader in girls' education, and requested further details on funding levels. The importance of advocacy and communication work around the 2005 goal of gender parity was highlighted, as was the need to improve reporting, strengthen the quality of evaluations, improve measurement of learning outcomes, and generate gender-disaggregated data. A question was raised about targets for the 25 acceleration countries. Other issues identified for further attention included water and sanitation in schools; gender-based violence; children with disabilities; and support for better teaching conditions. One delegate urged UNICEF to embrace the full set of EFA goals and to consider private and alternative education delivery systems.

31. The Chief of Education responded to some of the issues raised, noting the focus on intensified actions and the bold initiatives needed to achieve the gender parity goal in the 25 acceleration countries; reaffirming the importance of media and advocacy work as a key strategy; and underscoring the renewed sense of urgency implied in revitalizing UNGEI at the country level. He emphasized the primacy of government sector plans, noting the challenges involved in mainstreaming gender within the FTI, and emphasized that lessons learned from small-scale initiatives were being harnessed for work in scaling up.

32. The Executive Director addressed issues linked to UNGEI, highlighting its roll-out at country level and the efforts under way to strengthen the secretariat, including through the addition of two staff posts under the supervision of a Deputy Executive Director, as a means of raising its profile. Regarding the FTI, further efforts were needed to strengthen connections with the World Bank. She highlighted water and sanitation as a strategy to support work in both child survival and girls' education, the focus being on creating separate sanitation facilities for girls and promoting hygiene education that can help spread behavioural change from schools to the homes. Water and sanitation were also an important part of the organization's work in emergencies, where in several countries UNICEF is the leader among the United Nations agencies in this area. Governments remain the organization's primary partners in education, and state-provided education services were paramount. However, support was also provided to other educational actors involved in EFA, such as Koranic schools, for the establishment of a broader curriculum. Bangladesh was singled out as a country where, despite poverty, enormous commitment had spurred progress towards getting all boys and girls into school.

E. Immunization "plus": oral report

33. The Chief of the Health Section reported that the current strategies of using a mix of routine services and accelerated disease control programmes had brought significant progress, consistently benefiting about three quarters of the world's children. Still, over 30 million children – 25 million in Africa and Asia – and 40 million pregnant women were missed annually. Many countries, the majority in Africa, had made progress towards increasing routine immunization coverage in the lowest performing districts. Measles mortality in Africa had been reduced from an estimated 482,000 cases in 1999 to fewer than 240,000 in 2004. The Global Polio Eradication Initiative had

seen progress in Asia but there had been set-backs in Africa. The number of deaths from maternal and neonatal tetanus declined from 248,000 in 1997 to 180,000 in 2002. Measles vaccination and vitamin A supplementation were provided in 29 countries affected by emergencies as part of the UNICEF Core Commitments for Children.

34. Immunization campaigns and related accelerated efforts had reached children in marginalized families, but at the same time had detracted attention and resources from routine immunization services. Linking immunization with other health and nutrition interventions was cost-effective and contributed significantly to achieving Millennium Development Goal 4.

35. Accurate forecasting of vaccine demand and assured longer-term funding, which allow firm contracting with an increase number of manufacturers, had contributed to global vaccine security. As a leading partner in the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) and the various partnerships of accelerated disease control programmes, UNICEF would continue to advocate for and support accountability-based partnerships where roles and responsibilities were clearly defined, complementary and adequately resourced.

36. Several delegations commended UNICEF for its pivotal role in strengthening immunization systems at country level and encouraged integration of immunization into the national health planning and budgeting processes. Some expressed concern that too much focus on vertical campaigns might take away attention from strengthening routine immunization and district health systems. There was also concern expressed about how child soldiers were being vaccinated, and more importantly how to prevent them from being recruited in the first place. The secretariat said that it was vital to further strengthen routine immunization with four contacts for every child, and to linking immunization to other high-impact intervention to have an even higher impact on child mortality.

F. Global Immunization Vision and Strategy: oral report

37. Deputy Executive Director Kul Gautam presented an outline of the new Global Immunization Vision and Strategies (GIVS) for 2006-2015, which had been formulated jointly by UNICEF, the World Heath Organization (WHO) and other key partners. The GIVS built on experiences in immunization in recent years and intended to provide a unified vision to guide future formulation and implementation of immunization programmes and other related interventions at all levels. Equity, gender equality, ownership and responsibility of national Governments, accountability of all stakeholders, strong district-based immunization services and sustainability through technical and financial capacity building were some of the guiding principles of the new vision and its underlying strategies.

38. The presentation highlighted the five strategic areas of the GIVS: (a) protecting more people against vaccine-preventable diseases, through an appropriate mix of routine and campaign strategies and at least four immunization contacts per year, with unprecedented attention to targeting the unreached; (b) giving a strong impetus to introducing new vaccines and technologies; (c) creating opportunities to deliver additional, high-impact public health interventions; (d) overcoming sectoral

barriers by linking immunization and strengthening of health systems in such key areas such as financial and human resource planning, supply and data management; and (e) raising public awareness of global interdependence and establish accountability-based partnerships at all levels.

39. Many delegations commended the joint efforts and collaborative process between UNICEF and WHO and their partners in developing the GIVS, and encouraged further consultations with regional partners and national Governments. Speakers emphasized the need to further strengthen the strategy with respect to mechanisms for monitoring and reviewing progress, and on estimating costs, including vaccine price control and financing of vaccines. A delegation said that the GIVS was strong in terms of what needed to be done, but weak as to how to do so. Further, those in developing countries, while appreciative of the new vaccines, wanted to highlight that vaccines need to address the countries' needs, not the other way around. It was important to consider the role of market forces which could influence the introduction of the vaccines. The secretariat responded that the GIVS was a framework to guide future decisions about immunization, that costing was still being reviewed, and that roles and responsibility of key partners would be defined in the coming months.

G. Staff security: oral report

40. The report was presented by the UNICEF Security Coordinator, who said that because the world had become more dangerous, UNICEF staff operated in many high-risk environments. United Nations staff had been murdered, kidnapped and threatened by terrorist and extremist organizations, and throughout the world staff faced being killed or injured by indiscriminate acts of violence or by crime. The past year had witnessed 153 reports of such incidents in which UNICEF staff or their immediate dependants or assets were harmed.

41. New strategies had reduced staff vulnerability and enabled safer programme activity. Designed in close partnership with the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator (UNSECOORD), United Nations agencies, funds, programmes and NGOs, those strategies included a review and enhancement of Minimum Operating Security Standards (MOSS), the introduction of a new threat and risk analysis model and the introduction of a security training package via CD-ROM, which has been completed by nearly every UNICEF staff member.

42. In resolution 59/276 of 23 December 2004, the General Assembly created the Department of Safety and Security (DSS), which involved the merger of UNSECOORD, the Safety and Security Service, and the field security component of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. UNICEF would interact fully with DSS, continuing to be an active member of the United Nations Security Management System. The Security Coordinator thanked the Executive Board for approving the draw-down of an additional $14 million in 2004 to allow UNICEF to achieve full global MOSS compliance. The money had been allocated, and the current status of implementation was being reviewed. In resolution 59/276, the General Assembly had decided to retain the current system of cost-sharing, which meant that UNICEF would be required to continue paying 11.6 per cent of all field and field support costs under DSS. Those security costs, amounting to over $7 million per biennium under the current system, were projected to double under DSS.

43. The Executive Director commented that while staff safety and security was one of the UNICEF Core Commitments for Children, the General Assembly's decision not to fund security entirely from the United Nations regular budget was disappointing and presented considerable difficulty. UNICEF had begun a review to identify where the extra money could come from, and the issue might have to be brought back before the Board later in the year.

44. Several delegations commended the steps taken by UNICEF to increase staff safety and security and encouraged UNICEF to develop further strategies. Strong support was expressed for the formation of DSS and the aim of developing a capacity for threat and risk analysis. However, a number of delegations expressed their disappointment in the decision to retain the cost-sharing mechanism. Asked how UNICEF would interface with DSS, the Security Coordinator replied that UNICEF would be fully integrated into DSS, playing an important part in day-to-day decision-making, most of which would be done in the field. Moreover, UNICEF had supported the formation of DSS, believing that it would enhance the safety and security of staff as well as the ability to bring health, education, equality, and protection to those most in need.

H. Follow-up to Executive Board decision 2004/8 on joint programming

45. The President reminded the delegations that in Executive Board decision 2004/8 on joint programming, adopted at the annual session of 2004, the Board took note of the secretariat's report on joint programming (E/ICEF/2004/10) and deferred a decision on the subject to the first regular session of 2005.

46. Delegations reiterated the importance of joint programming and applauded the efforts of UNICEF in this area, as it was important to United Nations reform and achieving the Millennium Development Goals and other commitments. It was also viewed as a means to avoid duplication, reduce costs, maximize synergies among agencies and increase the effectiveness and efficiency of programmes. Most speakers, however, cautioned that the approach was not an end in itself and should be used only in cases where it was cost-efficient, where it would clearly improve development effectiveness and where each agency could reinforce the work of others. In each case, there was a need to ensure transparency and accountability. One delegation said that the approach must result in saving and improving lives.

47. A number of delegations underlined the importance of following the UNDG guidelines for joint programming and General Assembly resolution 59/250 of 22 December 2004 on the TCPR. Joint programming should be tailored to each country's situation. A key challenge was how to manage funding for joint programming. It was recommended that UNICEF closely follow the UNDG guidelines. One speaker said that donor countries needed to review their reporting requirements. Another stated that the lines of budgeting, reporting and evaluation of each agency should be clear and requested more information about how the types of funding mechanisms were chosen and evaluated. One delegation noted the organization's progress in joint programming, especially in the training of staff and the dissemination of guidelines. Another delegation appreciated the rights-based approach being taken.

48. See annex, decision 2005/3 for the text adopted by the Board. After the adoption of the decision, a delegation, speaking on behalf of a group of States, expressed appreciation for the consensus text which reflected amendments requested by her regional group. However, the Group requested that in future, enough time be allocated for consultations between all members, and not just between the members of the Bureau.

I. Private Sector Division (PSD): work plan and proposed budget for 2005

49. The Executive Board had before it the PSD work plan and proposed budget for 2005 (E/ICEF/2005/AB/L.1), which was introduced by the Director of PSD, together with highlights from the accompanying business plan for 2005-2007.

50. Delegations expressed their appreciation for the continued strong financial performance by PSD, especially in fund-raising, for the 2005 plan and for the impressive contribution targets. Delegations also commended the strong supportive role of the National Committees for UNICEF - especially their contribution to regular resources - which reflected broad support for UNICEF among the general public. The representative from the Standing Group of National Committees said that income from emergency fund-raising resulting from the tsunami crisis was the highest in the history of UNICEF.

51. PSD was encouraged to further explore new fund-raising opportunities, both in terms of geography and methodology. To a question about the decline in volume of card sales, where PSD had fallen short of its plan targets in recent years, especially in terms of sales by field offices, the Director replied that early indications showed a modest positive growth in sales volume in almost all markets for 2004. Responding to a question about an increase in marketing expenses, he explained that the overall increase in operating expenses was below the increase in revenues, although investment in marketing expenses was necessary for UNICEF to remain competitive. Nevertheless, PSD would closely watch those expenses.

52. The Executive Director added that UNICEF would carefully monitor country-based fund-raising, with a view to making this a complementary effort to programming. In response to a question about how PSD activities supported the Millennium Development Goals, she noted that overall fund-raising was critical to UNICEF efforts to achieve the Goals, and that country programmes would benefit from the high percentage of funds going to regular resources. (See annex, decision 2005/2, for the decision adopted by the Executive Board.)

J. Financial report and audited financial statements for 2002-2003 and the report of the Board of Auditors

53. The Executive Board had before it the financial report and audited financial statements for the biennium ended 31 Dec 2003 (A/59/5/Add.2), which was introduced by the Comptroller. The item had originally been on the agenda of the second regular session of 2004, by the Board had deferred it to the present session so that the Board could benefit from the report of the Board of Auditors and any discussions by the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly. The Comptroller

stated that UNICEF continued to receive an unqualified audit opinion from the Board of Auditors, and that in the Fifth Committee's review of the reports concerning the funds and programmes, no issues had been raised in relation to UNICEF. He added that 35 of the 47 recommendations made in the previous report of the Board of Auditors were closed, and the remaining 12 were under implementation.

54. A speaker sought clarification with regard to General Assembly resolution 57/278 20 December 2002, which requests that governance structures, principles and accountability be examined through out the United Nations system. The Comptroller replied that the High-Level Committee on Management was addressing the issue, and UNICEF would be an active participant in the discussion.

55. Several delegation requested clarification on the efforts taken by UNICEF and PSD to ensure that contributions were received. The Comptroller replied that emphasis had been given to the matter in the last year. Documentation had been improved and the receivables outstanding for 2003 had dramatically reduced. In relation to PSD, he drew the Board's attention to the fact that an increasing receivable was an indication of increasing income.

56. A delegation asked about the circumstances within which consultants were engaged, rather than utilizing UNICEF staff, and asked why this practice had increased. A delegation asked for an explanation of the kind of obligations referred to under Statement 1, Miscellaneous Income, Note 5. The Comptroller said that he would respond bilaterally to these comments.

57. Several delegations encouraged UNICEF to implement fully all recommendations of the Board of Auditors. It was suggested that the UNICEF response to the Board, due later in the year, should prioritize the recommendations and provide a timeframe for implementation. Another speaker asked for comments on the Board of Auditors statement that the excessive expenditure during the last quarter remained an area of concern, and that the concentration of expenditure at the end of the year might indicate weaknesses in planning. The Comptroller said that management was paying special attention to the issue, adding that UNICEF tracked a normal flow of business, similar to the pattern seen in Members' own Governments. In addition, UNICEF had noted with concern the observation of the auditors concerning safeguarding of assets and was to improve its procedures for non-expendable property.

58. The Executive Director added that UNICEF took these issues very seriously. She expressed her appreciation to UNICEF staff who worked in the area of operations, saying she was very proud of the fact that in the last 10 years, UNICEF had never had a qualified audit. UNICEF appreciated that audits were used to identify areas where improvements could be made, and would continue to aim for unqualified audit reports. The Executive Board took note of the report.

K. Pledging event

59. The Executive Director opened the sixth pledging event by stating that UNICEF greatly appreciated the confidence shown it by Governments, National Committees and the private sector,

as seen in the unprecedented response to the tsunami appeal. However, that support was for other resources, and the disparity between regular and other resources continued to grow. In 2003, regular resources made up only 43 per cent of the total income. However, more Governments were recognizing the importance of core financing for UNICEF activities. In 2004, UNICEF had, for the third consecutive year, achieved an increase in the level of regular resources from Governments, with preliminary total reaching $435 million, an increase of $32 million over 2003. Contributions had been made by 19 high-income, 21 middle-income and 10 low-income countries, with 15 countries having increased their contributions, 11 of them by 7 per cent or more.

60. Including pledges received prior to the pledging event, the secretariat received 50 pledges amounting to $255.7 million. Three countries provided tentative pledges for future years. One low-income country - Rwanda - pledged for the first time.

L. Other matters

Appointment of Ms. Ann Veneman as the next Executive Director of UNICEF

61. The President said that as he had informed delegations previously, he had received a letter from the Secretary-General concerning his intention to appoint Ms. Ann Veneman of the United States as the next Executive Director of UNICEF, at the conclusion of Carol Bellamy's term on 30 April 2005. After consultations with the Bureau and the regional groups, he had informed the Secretary-General of the Board's support for the appointment. The Secretary-General thanked the Board for its understanding of the situation and the support given to his decision. He and the Board welcomed and looked forward to working closely with Ms. Veneman as the new Executive Director.

Presentation on Mine Action Support Group

62. H.E. Jenö Staehelin (Switzerland), former President of the Executive Board and currently Chairman of the Mine Action Support Group (MASC), said that MASC was an informal forum composed of 27 members that met once a month to promote information exchange between donors and the United Nations about mine action activities, policy-making and funding needs. Mine-affected countries, experts and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were invited to report on the situation in their countries, their research activities and programmes. UNICEF also attended the meetings.

63. In the United Nations system, 10 partners were concerned with mine action, with the United Nations Mine Action Service acting as the overall coordinator. UNICEF was the focal point for improving mine awareness and mine-risk education, especially among children. UNICEF had mine action activities in 34 countries and regions. The Nairobi Summit on a Mine Free World, held last October, was an opportunity to review progress in implementing the mine ban treaty and pave the way for action in the coming five years. During a field trip to Angola as chairman of MASC, he had witnessed a programme, designed by a local NGO and UNICEF, in which a group of strongly motivated young volunteers explained the risks of mines to children through a theatre performance. UNICEF played an important role in the fight against landmines, but much remained to be done,

especially about the problem of unexploded ordnance (UXO). More children were now injured by UXO than by landmines.

64. A speaker said that in Africa, landmines had harmed many innocent people, especially children. Education was especially important to prevent injuries, but it was also important to combat the sale and use of these mines. Another speaker said that landmines were used irresponsibly in some parts of the world and had injured women and children. However, some countries needed mines to ensure their minimum security requirements. His own country had a long land border and was under pressure to halt drug trafficking, and landmines were a practical tool in this effort. He asked how effectively the international community had assisted mine-affected areas in mine clearance. Ambassador Stachelin said that his personal opinion was that there was always a dilemma caused by the legitimate right to security and consequence in other areas. The problem of landmines was that most of those who suffered were civilians. The Executive Director added that 80 per cent of those wounded or killed by mines were civilians, and 20 per cent were children. Mines were even made to look like toys. She urged all countries to ratify the Ottawa Convention, because mines were not killing soldiers and drug dealers, but innocent civilians.

Presentation on UNICEF global campaign on HIV/AIDS

65. The Executive Director reported that the impact of the epidemic was huge. Although funding had increased, the response to the pandemic was massively under-resourced. While much attention was focused on orphaned children, a much larger group of children was affected, including those who were infected. UNICEF worked with all children who needed care, support and treatment.

66. The Chief of the UNICEF HIV/AIDS Section said that while some progress had been made, the disease has orphaned 12 million children in sub-Saharan Africa alone. More than 2 million children currently were infected, and 600,000 become infected each year. Untold millions of other children continued to be affected by the disease in other ways.

67. In concert with partners, UNICEF has begun work on a new campaign, "Children and AIDS", to: (a) place children at the centre of the global response; (b) improve assistance to mitigate the impact on children and secure their rights; (c) promote policies to support the response; and (d) over a six-year period, raise $1 billion to strengthen capacities for prevention, care, support and treatment for children, and scale up the response to reach a minimum of 10 million additional children. The campaign was designed to achieve a direct and measurable impact on child survival and other UNICEF priorities, especially protection, education and early childhood development. Actions would contribute to achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the targets of the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS.

68. A work in progress, the campaign would include a wide range of partners, from governments and United Nations agencies to civil society and faith-based organizations. It would follow the "three ones" principles and support and accelerate the "3 x 5" initiative led by WHO, especially actions to improve treatment for children and keep parents alive.

69. A consultation with field offices and National Committees would take place in early 2005 to establish goals, mechanisms for achieving them and resource allocation. Participants would discuss how to support existing national efforts and integrate the campaign's work into the development process and initiatives. The Chief thanked the Governments of the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States for pledges or contributions of funds; the National Committees for funds and leadership in helping to develop the campaign; and to the Global Partners Forum, held with the World Bank, for their assistance with building the campaign, to be launched officially in fall 2005.

Presentation on the United Nations Study on Violence against Children

70. Deputy Executive Director Rima Salah provided an overview of progress on the study, which the Secretary-General had been requested to conduct three years ago. The study aimed to: (a) gather the best information on preventing and combating violence; and (b) mobilize and expand networks to act on the study's recommendations, including strengthening the political support needed to keep children safer. The study covered all forms of physical and mental violence, injury, abuse, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse.

71. Led by independent expert Paulo Sergio Pinheiro and with the support of a Geneva-based secretariat, the study would focus on children as victims of violence across various settings, including families, schools, communities, residential and care institutions, detention facilities and juvenile justice systems. Among the United Nations organizations taking part, UNICEF was focusing on violence in schools, and the International Labour Organization on working children. Research would address the particular vulnerabilities of children from migrant, indigenous, minority and other groups. The study would consider how patterns of violence were impacted by discrimination based on race, gender and HIV status. It would also review the systems, structure and social realities behind violence and make linkages to gender, poverty and globalization. Emphasis would be placed on the economic and social costs of not taking action.

72. UNICEF country offices had supported the coordination and follow-up for questionnaires sent out for the study, to which more than 80 Governments have responded. Input from NGOs was being channelled through an NGO advisory panel set up for the project. In addition, a call was made for public submission from NGOs, academics and other civil society groups.

73. In 2005, research efforts would focus on conducting regional consultations, coordinated by UNICEF, with nine scheduled for the first half of 2005. The participation of children and young people was built into the consultations.

74. Among supporters of the project, the Inter-Parliamentary Union was mobilizing assistance through its global networks, and in 2004 had helped to launch a handbook on the subject for parliamentarians. The Deputy Executive Director thanked the Governments of Belgium, Finland, France, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom for their support. However, additional resources were needed.

Presentation on the Second High-Level Forum on the Health Millennium Development Goals

75. Kul Gautam, Deputy Executive Director, said that the High-Level Forum on Health-related Millennium Development Goals, established in May 2003, aimed to provide an opportunity for candid dialogue between senior policy makers and to identify opportunities for accelerating action on the health-related Goals. The second Forum, held in Abuja, Nigeria in December, addressed five issues: a global overview of progress towards the health Goals in low and middle-income countries; a review of PRSPs and sectoral strategies and how they responded to the health Goals; the crisis of human resources in health, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa; the monitoring performance and tracking resource flows for these Goals; and the situation of the health Goals in fragile States. Much of the discussion was on Millennium Development Goal 4, the reduction of infant and under-five mortality, and concluded that the world was not on track to achieve the Goal if current trends continued, especially in sub-Saharan Africa.

76. The Abuja Forum concluded with a call for access by low-income countries to critical commodities - essential drugs, bednets, anti-retroviral drugs (ARVs) and vaccines - either free of charge or at affordable prices. Another topic was the crisis in Africa's health human resources: more health workers were dying than were being trained and recruited, compounded by a massive brain drain of health workers from Africa to industrialized countries, and from poorer African countries to countries like South Africa. The Government of Norway would host a meeting in February 2005 to take the issue forward in collaboration with a working group. He had proposed to the Forum the idea of a global commodity subsidy for children, to ensure that children in low-income countries received such essential life-saving commodities as insecticide-treated nets, new drugs for malaria, paediatric ARVs and certain underutilized vaccines at subsidized costs.

77. A delegation welcomed the strengthened leadership by UNICEF on the maternal and child health (MCH) Millennium Development Goals, and encouraged UNICEF in four key areas: ensuring that MCH were made explicit priorities and were fully developed and integrated within the new MTSP, and reflected in budgetary allocations; moving away from small-scale pilot intervention projects towards programmes of technical support for Governments that responded to and were lead by national priorities and needs, while maintaining a service-delivery function in humanitarian settings; ensuring that the UNICEF agenda was harmonized within United Nations group mechanisms at country level, including the UNDG and the "three ones", in order to integrate child health priorities into wider United Nations group activities; and advocating for and fostering national government ownership of child health goals and activities, and their inclusion within national and sectoral budgeting processes.

M. Closing of the session

Tribute to Carol Bellamy

78. Delegations paid tribute to Carol Bellamy, whose second term of office expires 1 May 2005. Ms. Bellamy was hailed for her dynamism, extraordinary leadership and "unfailing commitment" to the cause of children, including her numerous travels to crisis-torn countries. Among the many

accomplishments of her 10-year stewardship of UNICEF, speakers highlighted the strengthening and streamlining of emergency operations, as evidenced in the rapid response to the South Asian tsunami disaster and other crises; the placement of UNICEF at the cutting edge of global work on issues affecting children, including the challenging areas of sexual exploitation, armed conflict and HIV/AIDS; the championing of human and child rights in development; and the strong foundation laid for cooperation with other United Nations agencies, especially in emergencies and transition

Closing statements

79. The Executive Director announced her departure at the end of April, at which time Secretary Venemen will be welcomed as the new Executive Director. Ms. Bellamy shared parting thoughts about her years at UNICEF, which began at a time when armed conflict, natural disasters and HIV/AIDS had reversed hard-won gains in health, nutrition and education and had increased poverty. Fortunately, it was also a time when the world embraced the rights of children and women, when technical breakthroughs improved programmes, and when wide-ranging partnerships strengthened the resolve and means to help children. The Millennium Development Goals and the UNICEF MTSP were vital ingredients for fulfilling the international goals and priorities for children. Ms. Bellamy thanked the Executive Board for its "unstinting leadership and support" during her tenure and expressed her gratitude for the excellent work of Youssouf Oomar, Assistant Secretary of the Executive Board, who would soon take up the post of UNICEF Representative in Côte d'Ivoire.

80. In closing, the President thanked the delegates, the Bureau and the secretariat for a highly participatory and substantive session and for their close and productive working relationships. Summarizing the key results and decisions adopted, he voiced his appreciation for the thoughtful discussions and successful pledging event. On behalf of the Board, he lauded the Executive Director for her spirited legacy of translating compassion into action and for her "tremendous skill, determination and vision" in leading UNICEF, particularly her intense engagement in the workings of the Executive Board.

III. Joint meeting of the Executive Boards of UNICEF, UNDP/UNFPA and WFP

81. This chapter, originally submitted as an addendum to the report of the UNICEF Executive Board on its first regular session of 2005, is a summary of the discussions that took place during the joint meeting of the Executive Boards of UNICEF, UNDP/UNFPA and WFP, held on 20 and 24 January 2005. The text was prepared by the secretariats of the funds and programmes and approved by the Presidents of the three Executive Boards.

A. Children and women affected by HIV/AIDS

82. Following opening comments by the President of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the UNICEF Executive Director, the presentations addressed the priority issues of children and women made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS; provided examples of joint action in the United Nations system; and highlighted priority challenges for

the United Nations system in strengthening the responses of individual agencies and joint responses.

83. Speakers noted the progress that has been made for children and women affected by HIV/AIDS, including the increasing number of international frameworks for global and United Nations action, internationally endorsed targets, norms and standards as well as increasing evidence of joint action across the United Nations system. Examples included school food and nutrition programmes, the rapid assessment, analysis and action planning in 17 sub-Saharan African countries and increasing inclusion in poverty reduction strategy papers of a role for children and young people affected by HIV/AIDS.

84. But as the presentations and subsequent interventions made clear, there has not been sufficient action to address the rights of children and women made vulnerable by the pandemic. Agencies need to do more individually and together through such concrete opportunities as: global initiatives such as the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS and the Global Partners Forum on Orphans and Vulnerable Children; efforts to strengthen the United Nations response to HIV/AIDS; and United Nations reform and the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development.

85. The important links between the issues of affected children and women were highlighted, emphasizing that vulnerable children, in particular, need access to sexual and reproductive health and rights in order to break the cycle of HIV transmission. Primary prevention and keeping parents alive are two of the most important strategies for reducing the vulnerability of children affected by HIV/AIDS. Tackling gender-based violence must be a key component of prevention strategies.

86. Speakers said that as a priority, the concerns of women and children made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS must be integrated into national development instruments such as poverty reduction strategy papers and national HIV/AIDS plans. But at the same time, attention and support at the community level must increase, with an eye to strengthening community capacities to cope with the impacts of the pandemic. This included channelling resources to communities and tracking resources to ensure accountability.

87. It was also stressed that coordination of the global, regional and national responses to HIV/AIDS remains an immense challenge. The "three ones" principle provides a framework for addressing this, with an important emphasis on national ownership. This now needs to move beyond slogans to meaningful action on the ground. The United Nations system must promote and support action that is rights-based, gender-sensitive and nationally owned.

B. Gender

88. Following introductory remarks by the President of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Executive Board, the Executive Director of UNFPA made a presentation on the experiences and issues of gender

mainstreaming. She underlined several examples of good inter-agency collaboration and also pointed out the key challenges of insufficient resources for gender mainstreaming policies; the varying expertise of staff on gender issues; the limitations of gender-disaggregated data systems; and inadequate tracking, monitoring and accountability at significant levels.

89. The Director of the Women, Gender and Development Department of the African Union gave examples of institutionalized commitment to gender mainstreaming in the African Union, but also pointed out the weak ownership of the gender equality agenda by decision makers, who often do not recognize that addressing gender issues and gender mainstreaming was a critical strategy for sustainable development.

90. In the ensuing discussion, members of the Executive Boards made a number of recommendations. For future joint meetings, it was suggested that there be one joint inter-agency document on gender, outlining common strategies and responsibilities, specific targets and accountabilities for gender mainstreaming in poverty reduction strategy papers, the common country assessment (CCA)/United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) processes and government policies, as well as advocacy for linking the Millennium Development Goals, the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. The document should include information on the agencies' resources, accountability and gender expertise. Targets and results should be expressed both qualitatively and quantitatively.

91. Speakers said that the agencies must work together on how to measure success in gender mainstreaming and reducing inequalities between women and men, and on how to help countries to establish accountability systems in mainstreaming gender issues. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank should be more involved in gender mainstreaming strategies since poverty reduction strategy papers are key development frameworks. In addition, donors should increase their financial support to gender mainstreaming efforts. Simultaneously, agencies should devote institutional core resources to gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment, and not rely on extrabudgetary funding for this.

92. It was suggested that community intervention must be a part of gender mainstreaming strategies to build community ownership and accelerate behavioural and policy change on gender issues. Gender mainstreaming must be accompanied by specific attention to women's empowerment. For their part, agencies need to build institutional accountability, develop capacities at all levels of staff, perform gender audits and gender-responsive budgeting and develop base-line data and means for tracking change. The concept of gender mainstreaming and tactics to achieve it must be clarified.

C. Transition from relief to development

93. The President of the Executive Board of the World Food Programme (WFP) introduced the item, stressing that the United Nations can play a potentially important role in transition. The representative of WFP spoke about the progress to date of the Joint Working Group, saying that United Nations Development Group (UNDG) agencies were working together in post-natural disaster transitions (as in the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster), as well as in post-conflict transitions.

94. The Executive Director of UNICEF said that the work of the UNDG Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs on transitions had a positive impact on the ability of the United Nations to position itself for transition. The responsiveness of a strong resident coordinator system - combined with early support from the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs - in the tsunami-affected countries was a positive example of progress. The Humanitarian Coordinator for Haiti presented a concrete example of how transition programming, following a natural disaster, is being tackled in the field. He reviewed the interplay of different United Nations structures in responding to the devastating floods of 2004, specifically the experience of collaborating with the United Nations peacekeeping mission there.

95. Several delegations raised the importance of advancing the development of creative options for financing for transitions by the United Nations and the international financial institutions. The UNDG office was encouraged to extend its concrete partnerships to the regional development banks in addition to its ongoing cooperation with the World Bank. A number of delegations stressed the need to position transitioning programming firmly within government-owned processes and plans. The importance of capacity-building in this regard, admittedly difficult in many post-conflict situations, was stressed. Several delegations mentioned that only with a longer-term outlook and longer-term assistance could the United Nations help address the structural causes that have led to conflict.

96. There was general agreement that the Executive Committee on Humanitarian Assistance Working Group on Transition Issues should expand its work to include post-natural disaster transitions. Delegations expressed support for plans of the UNDG office to reinforce its support to country teams in this regard. Several delegations suggested that the lessons learned from tsunami recovery programming would be a useful starting point and potentially a good issue to discuss at a future joint meeting of the Executive Boards. Delegations approved of the Working Group's intentions to follow ongoing discussions on United Nations reform, including the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change. Several speakers said that non-governmental and informal discussions on reform should be viewed with caution and that the agencies were guided in the area of transition primarily by resolutions of the Economic and Social Council.

97. The pivotal role of women in peacebuilding and rehabilitation processes was raised, with the particular example of El Salvador cited. Noting that gender had been identified by

the Working Group as an area for further work, speakers encouraged the UNDG office to pursue this.

98. Concluding the discussion, the President of the WFP Executive Board stressed the need to clarify and agree on a common understanding of the word "transition"; the important role of UNDG in planning and implementing activities for transition (both post-conflict and post-natural disaster) and the need for the international financial institutions to fully engage with the UNDG agencies; the importance of the continuing direct needs of vulnerable populations in transition situations and the need for post-conflict needs assessments to reflect them; the need to ensure a humanitarian "space" in all United Nations missions; the need to examine the costs of coordination in transition situations; and the need for the Working Group to continue working on practical, field-based support rather than waiting for the conclusions of United Nations reform processes.

D. Simplification and harmonization

99. The Associate Administrator of UNDP described the status of simplification and harmonization in light of General Assembly resolution 59/250 on the triennial comprehensive policy review. His intervention preceded remarks by the 2004 Chairmen of the UNDG Programme and Management Groups on progress since the last joint meeting of the Executive Boards. The regional and country-level perspectives, highlighted by the Director, Africa Division, UNFPA; the Secretary, Economic Affairs Division, Government of Pakistan; and the Resident Coordinator, Pakistan, focused on regional best practices and country-level implementation initiatives based on national ownership.

100. Expressing their commitment to United Nations reform and underlining the significance of the General Assembly resolution, delegations highlighted that the United Nations system was under scrutiny at the country level, and viewed the triennial comprehensive policy review as a call for action to work more effectively and efficiently. They pointed to the need to look beyond internal procedures in order to align with other agencies and stakeholders at the country level. They urged UNDG to seek greater involvement of United Nations organizations and expand collaboration with the international financial institutions.

101. The absence of clear targets and timelines for implementing the recommendations of the triennial comprehensive policy review during the period 2005-2007 raised concerns. Delegations looked forward to a timetable and harmonization plan at the Economic and Social Council organizational session for 2005 and stressed the importance of the March 2005 meeting of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. They noted potential joint programming costs and overlapping agency roles, which could blur accountability and transparency. Several delegations questioned the desirability of pooling funding mechanisms for joint programming.

102. In general, delegations encouraged UNDG to follow up on UNDAF evaluations, establish joint guidelines on cost recovery, clarify accountability of pooling arrangements, issue practical country team guidelines on capacity-building and technical cooperation, strengthen the inter-agency focus on gender, intensify efforts to harmonize CCA/UNDAF processes with national priorities and expand pilot initiatives for joint offices to other countries. They underlined the value of joint needs assessments, common tools for crisis/post-crisis situations, integrated databases and expanding regional coordination to avoid duplication and resource waste.

103. In response, UNDG representatives clarified that an implementation plan for 2005-2007 was being developed with clear, concrete targets and a timeline for implementation of the triennial comprehensive policy review recommendations, in accordance with human and financial resource requirements. They noted that lessons learned from joint programming and previous UNDAF exercises would be collected to improve joint programming guidelines, originally developed in accordance with the first recommendations of the triennial comprehensive policy review.

104. Underlining the importance of national ownership and the alignment of poverty reduction strategy papers with the Millennium Development Goals, the secretariats stressed that the CCA/UNDAF processes were systematically carried out based on national priorities laid out in poverty reduction strategy papers or similar strategies and in line with the commitments of the Millennium Declaration. *DevInfo* had been developed to assist programme countries in monitoring progress at the national level.

105. Regarding cost benefits, experience had proven that common premises, common services and joint offices had resulted in lower transaction costs and allowed greater development impact.

Part two
2005 annual session

Held at United Nations Headquarters from 6-10 June 2005

I. Organization of the session

A. Opening of the session

106. The President welcomed the new Executive Director, Ms. Ann M. Veneman, saying that she took the helm of UNICEF as it developed its new medium-term strategic plan (MTSP) for 2006-2009, accelerated efforts to meet the Millennium Development Goals and proceeded with United Nations reform. UNICEF and its partners continued to make great strides in achieving tangible results for children. The Executive Board had much work to do in guiding this process, and it was encouraging to see its increasingly interactive deliberations.

107. The Executive Director thanked the members of the Board for their support for her appointment as the fifth Executive Director of UNICEF. One of the most important challenges was supporting achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. For UNICEF, this meant a focus on the most marginalized children and the poorest families; participation by people in their own development; results that were shared equally between genders; and government institutions and service providers that were accountable to the people they served. Collaboration was critical to these efforts, as she had seen during her first field visit as Executive Director, to southern Africa. She had travelled with the Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP), who is the Secretary-General's humanitarian envoy for that region, and the Executive Director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS). The trip had underlined how United Nations agencies could complement each other in supporting Governments and other partners to address the challenges facing that region.

108. The Executive Director also highlighted the Accelerated Child Survival and Development (ACSD) programme as a model, noting the importance of an integrated approach to child survival. She said that UNICEF would accelerate its engagement with United Nations reform, prioritize national capacity-building and scaling-up of "what works" and adopt a results-based focus. She also emphasized the importance of human rights and gender equality.

109. The representatives of Belarus, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Norway, Peru and Senegal, on behalf of their respective regional groups, welcomed Ms. Veneman and said they looked forward to working with her on the many important challenges facing UNICEF.

B. Adoption of the agenda

110. The Executive Board adopted the agenda, timetable and organization of work (E/ICEF/2005/7 and Corr.1) for the session.

111. In accordance with rule 50.2 of the rules of procedure, the Secretary of the Executive Board announced that credentials had been submitted by 61 observer delegations, 3 United

Nations bodies, 8 National Committees for UNICEF, 6 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the NGO Committee on UNICEF.

II. Deliberations of the Executive Board

A. Annual report of the Executive Director

112. The Executive Board had before it the annual report of the Executive Director, on progress and achievements against the MTSP for 2002-2005 (E/ICEF/2005/6), which was introduced by Ms. Rima Salah, Deputy Executive Director.

113. Delegations requested that the secretariat improve future reports through deeper analysis of the information presented, particularly through greater use of indicators and country data; comparisons of progress with previous years or other measures such as the Millennium Development Goals; indications of which countries are lagging behind; and presentation of proposals on how to address challenges. More analysis of constraints to achievement of the goals of the MTSP 2002-2005 should also be presented in next year's report. The secretariat was also requested to ensure that the next MTSP has a more systematic focus on specific and measurable targets for annual reporting. The secretariat replied that more extensive reporting and analysis would be provided in the next annual report.

114. A delegation asked for analysis in areas other than the Millennium Development Goals, for example the goals of A World Fit for Children or the New Partnership for Africa's Development. Speakers also requested clearer analysis of how gender was being mainstreamed in the work of UNICEF. On United Nations reform, delegations asked for more information on joint programming, joint premises and the UNICEF contribution to monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals. A delegation suggested an evaluation of whether UNICEF was on course in the reform processes. The secretariat responded that UNICEF was extremely active in monitoring of the Goals, with responsibility or co-responsibility for global monitoring of 18 indicators. UNICEF also contributed to system-wide monitoring mechanisms through support to the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys and *DevInfo*. Joint programming was also being extended across countries and themes.

115. Several delegations supported the UNICEF focus on poverty and the organization's increasing engagement with poverty reduction strategies (PRSs). They asked the secretariat to continue to strengthen its participation in United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs), PRSs and the preparation and monitoring of national budgets. It was suggested that targets in sub-Saharan Africa should be met without decreasing the emphasis on countries affected by the Indian Ocean tsunami. The secretariat said that UNICEF was maintaining its strong focus on poverty, with some two thirds of total expenditures allocated to least developed countries in 2004.

116. Delegations expressed concern about the deteriorating proportion of regular resources in relation to other resources, despite the increase in total funding. The secretariat reiterated

the importance of increased regular resources to the organization. To questions on the source and allocation of thematic funding, the secretariat said that early childhood development (ECD) and child protection had yet to attract significant levels of thematic funding. The secretariat would develop a new plan for thematic funding to support implementation of the next MTSP.

117. Several speakers called for strengthening of UNICEF emergency response systems. The UNICEF response to the tsunami had been rapid and effective, as had the response to the tragedy in Beslan, but concerns remained about the response in the Darfur region of the Sudan, particularly about the time required for deployment and recruitment of staff and the support provided for water and sanitation. Delegations requested further information on how programmatic weaknesses in Darfur were being addressed and how lessons learned from the tsunami crisis would be used. The secretariat said that it would issue a report on the tsunami by July 2005. Targets and performance indicators relating to the Core Corporate Commitments for Children in Emergencies (CCCs) were also being developed. Problems in Darfur were due to the initial use of temporary staff and the scale and evolution of the humanitarian crisis. UNICEF was working to reduce the time needed for deploying staff and would review procedures to strengthen efficiency and accountability. In addition, more resources were needed for less visible emergencies, as in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Liberia.

118. In ECD, delegations requested information on progress in maternal health, the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative, anaemia reduction and the promotion of birth registration. Questions were also raised about the reasons for the low coverage of national ECD plans. The secretariat said that UNICEF currently was working with some 50 countries to support new or revised national ECD policies, including the ACSD initiative in West Africa.

119. Delegations expressed concerns about the possibility of higher costs for immunization because of higher prices of new vaccines and encouraged UNICEF to continue its efforts to increase access to affordable vaccines. Delegations also expressed concern about the resurgence of polio. The secretariat said that immunization remained a high priority. Beyond its direct financial contribution, UNICEF also provided procurement services for immunization and worked with such mechanisms as the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI). Asked why over 29 million children had not been immunized, the secretariat said that this was mainly because of conflict, HIV/AIDS, poverty and difficulties faced by some large African countries.

120. On girls' education, a delegation said that there should be a greater shift from a project to a programme approach, and increased focus on capacity-building and policy development. Speakers also requested more information on how UNICEF was addressing disability and improving learning outcomes.

121. Some delegations said that spending on HIV/AIDS was too low and suggested that the level be increased from 9 to 14 per cent of total programme expenditure. The secretariat

replied that UNICEF spent 13 per cent of its total regular resources expenditures on HIV/AIDS in 2004. The percentage of other resources was considerably lower and reduced the overall percentage. More resources would be available through the Global Campaign, which was projected to raise up to $1 billion over five years. Delegations also said that UNICEF should ensure increased access to HIV prophylaxis, draw more attention to orphans and other vulnerable children (OVC) and strengthen psychosocial programmes for women and children affected by HIV/AIDS. A delegation expressed concern that the new UNICEF Global Campaign on HIV/AIDS and Children would promote vertical interventions rather than strengthening coordination mechanisms at the country level.

122. Delegations urged that increased attention be paid to children affected by armed conflict, child trafficking, violence against children, sexual exploitation, rehabilitation of child victims and childhood disability. A speaker requested information on implementation of legislative reforms that had been supported by UNICEF. Another delegation encouraged UNICEF to undertake stronger advocacy for child protection in PRSs. The secretariat said that overall, UNICEF work in child protection was improving, indicators had been developed and more work was being done to support children with disability.

123. Concluding the discussion, the Executive Director said there was a need for more integrated approaches and strengthened partnerships, which would advance the cause of children and the Millennium Development Goals. (See annex, decision 2005/10 for the decision adopted by the Executive Board.)

B. Review of the draft MTSP for 2006-2009

124. The President reminded delegations that the draft MTSP for 2006-2009 was available in English only and was presented to the Board for discussion and comments. It would be revised and shortened, and presented to the Board at the second regular session in all languages.

125. The draft was introduced by Kul Gautam, Deputy Executive Director, who highlighted its guiding principles and links to the Millennium Declaration and its Goals, and with other international instruments, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Declaration and Plan of Action of the General Assembly Special Session on Children. The plan was organized into five focus areas: (a) young child survival and development; (b) basic education and gender equality; (c) HIV/AIDS and children; (d) child protection; and (e) "first call" for children in policies, laws and budgets.

126. Delegations welcomed the participatory process used to develop the draft MTSP, which took account of many of the comments provided during informal consultations. Speakers endorsed the importance of focusing on the child-related Millennium goals and related results. Delegations welcomed the centrality of the United Nations reform process to the plan, and suggested that UNICEF clarify in the plan its relationship and its joint

programming work with agencies such as UNAIDS, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), WFP and the World Health Organization (WHO).

127. Delegations endorsed the intended use of the plan as an overall guiding framework for UNICEF, to be adapted to specific conditions and priorities at the country level. The plan should also have flexibility for addressing regional and subregional issues. Some delegations endorsed the life-cycle approach and some asked for a more systematic use of the human rights-based approach to programming in all focus areas. The secretariat was requested to preserve the country-based programming approach, the close working relationship of UNICEF with Governments and civil society and the organization's trusted brand and identity.

128. Several delegates strongly endorsed the national context for the focus areas, including such instruments as sector-wide approaches (SWAps), PRSs and national budgets. The emphasis on capacity-building was also commended, although more specific targets were needed for monitoring progress in this area. Baseline data should be provided where possible for the organizational targets in the results matrix.

129. A delegation asked how country offices would be guided in programme development and suggested an assessment of the risks and challenges facing the implementation of the plan. It was also suggested that the word "intervention" be avoided or clarified due to its possibly negative connotations.

130. Several delegations welcomed the use of key performance indicators to enable UNICEF to better monitor its organizational efficiency. Other speakers suggested a stronger articulation of the links between the focus areas and resources distribution. The focus on sub-Saharan Africa should be maintained, but there must also be support for programmes in Asia, home to two thirds of the world's poor.

131. One speaker commended the intended coverage of industrialized countries in the plan, and suggested that the possible Business Advisory Council for public-private partnerships involve the National Committees for UNICEF. It was also stressed that all countries and situations should be covered by the MTSP, based on specific needs and the need to address disparities, social exclusion and the most marginalized groups. UNICEF should also enhance its research function to be a leading contributor to policies relating to children.

132. Several delegations welcomed the focus on gender issues in the focus area on basic education and gender equality but also wanted clear mainstreaming of gender concerns in the other areas. A speaker requested inclusion of the rights of women and the need to address violence against women.

133. Many delegates emphasized the need for UNICEF to ensure effective responses to children in emergencies. UNICEF should strengthen its needs-assessm nt tools and response to internally displaced persons (IDPs) and should coordinate effectively with other United

Nations agencies. Several delegations endorsed the mainstreaming of emergency response in the focus areas, but one delegation suggested that emergency response be a separate focus area. A delegation cautioned UNICEF against going beyond the CCCs.

134. Some delegations were pleased with the emphasis on families, but others asked for a broader definition of the family, including single-headed households and guardians, and clearer attention to children without primary caregivers.

135. Regarding focus area 1, young child survival and development, greater attention was needed on child survival, with more guidance given to countries not among the 60 priority countries with high child mortality rates. The plan should also present a deeper analysis of barriers to reducing under-five mortality; emphasize progress made in immunization, particularly measles, polio eradication and work with GAVI; and refer to WHO-UNICEF global immunization strategy. A speaker welcomed the consolidation of immunization "plus" and ECD into one focus area, but said a holistic approach to ECD was needed. Clear strategies on maternal mortality and morbidity reduction should be also reflected. It was also stated that the amount of resources devoted to this focus area should not be reduced vis-à-vis the total amount allocated to ECD and immunization "plus" under the previous plan.

136. Several delegates supported the multi-faceted approach of the focus area, including the focus on high-impact health and nutrition interventions, water and environmental sanitation and dracunculiasis eradication. More attention should be given to unintentional injuries; intergenerational approaches to nutrition, including maternal nutrition; breastfeeding and infant and young child feeding; and social, psychological and emotional issues.

137. Regarding focus area 2, basic education and gender equality, several delegations welcomed the role of UNICEF in global initiatives to reach all children with basic education. However, questions were asked about partners' contributions to planned targets; quality education; national ownership; institutional development of educational systems in the context of SWAps; excluded children, minorities, and children with disabilities; and the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative.

138. Regarding focus area 3, HIV/AIDS and children, speakers were pleased with the emphasis on treatment and prevention of new infections in children and adolescents. UNICEF should work closely with UNAIDS and WHO at the country level. Initiatives to address reproductive health and education should be included in the text as well as in the results matrix, in accordance with the outcomes of the International Conference on Population and Development. Some delegations urged that a larger proportion of regular resources should be allocated to this focus area. There should be a greater focus on adolescents and further emphasis on the provision of information to young people, youth participation, sexual education and peer education in the context of sexual and reproductive health. The prevention of HIV/AIDS in the context of humanitarian crisis and post-conflict transition should also be considered. Support to OVCs required more emphasis and continued UNICEF leadership across all focus areas of the plan.

139. On focus area 4, child protection, a speaker expressed appreciation for the use of the protective environment framework, the reference to elimination of female genital cutting and the work of the Innocenti Research Centre. Delegations asked for more emphasis on addressing disabilities, child trafficking and the monitoring of children in armed conflict. A more comprehensive approach to child protection, clearer targets and higher resource levels need to be reflected in the plan, which should also address the needs of traumatized children in middle-income countries. Negligence, prevention of child labour and abandonment of children and internally displaced persons should also be covered.

140. Speakers were pleased with the establishment of focus area 5, "first call" for children in policies, laws and budgets, and its intention to promote and assess progress on children's rights and focus on UNICEF engagement with PRSs and SWAps. It was important to support capacity development for national policy formulation. Some speakers said that the overall advocacy role of UNICEF should be more strongly emphasized, and there was agreement that the new focus area more clearly and strategically articulated UNICEF activities under this heading. Further, both advocacy and partnerships in specific sectors should be clearly reflected in other parts of the plan.

141. The secretariat agreed to take note of the comments in the next version of the MTSP. There was general agreement with the five proposed focus areas, and the secretariat would consider the suggestions to change their titles; the MTSP would focus on the Millennium goals but go beyond the goals where national circumstances made this possible; the plan would focus on support to marginalized populations, in accordance with the human rights-based approach; gender mainstreaming would be strengthened across the new plan; there would be an appropriate balance between policy advocacy and support to programme implementation; and the linkages between the different focus areas would be ensured.

C. Proposals for UNICEF programme cooperation

Draft country programme documents (CPDs)

Overview

142. In an overview, the Director, Programme Division, said that the 20 draft CPDs had been developed jointly by Governments and UNICEF and aligned with national priorities, and that 16 of the 20 countries had prepared an UNDAF. A rights-based approach was evident in the majority of the draft documents.

143. Delegations expressed appreciation that the draft CPDs pinpointed the role of UNICEF; referred to national policies, the UNDAF and international commitments; and used results-based management. Asked if the respective UNDAFs, especially the results matrices, could be provided together with the draft CPDs, the secretariat said it would make them available if possible. It was also suggested that: joint programming and joint programmes be

seriously considered in all country programmes; there be greater emphasis on gender, including disaggregation of data; the rights-based approach be more evident; CPDs discuss the concrete constraints to programme implementation; and there be greater emphasis on national capacity-building.

Eastern and Southern Africa

144. The Executive Board had before it the draft CPDs for Namibia and Uganda (E/ICEF/2005/P/L.1 and Corr.1 and E/ICEF/2005/P/L.2), which were introduced by the Regional Director.

145. Delegations commended UNICEF for (a) the relevant, concise and clear situation analyses of the draft CPDs; (b) programme interventions that reflected the priorities of UNICEF, a focus on marginalized groups and regions, and conformity to national priorities; (c) CPDs that reflected broad-based consultations, the participation of stakeholders and harmonization with the priorities and processes of Governments and other United Nations agencies; and (d) the high quality of UNICEF staff in the field.

146. The representative of **Namibia** noted the rapid deterioration of the situation of children and women in the country, owing to HIV/AIDS, food insecurity, declining capacity to deliver services and the legacy of apartheid, which resulted in wide income disparities. Pointing to the declining official development assistance in her country, she appealed to the international community for more support. Other delegations said that UNICEF was well placed to address these threats, but more attention should be paid to national capacity-building and to the quality of education, especially in view of the high attrition rate of teachers due to HIV/AIDS.

147. The representative of **Uganda** described the massive internal population displacements due to the conflict with the Lord's Resistance Army in northern Uganda and described the Government's response to alleviate the suffering. He urged donors to increase their assistance to meet the needs of children, especially those orphaned by HIV/AIDS and affected by the conflict. Several delegations urged UNICEF to advocate more strongly on behalf of children and women in the northern districts, given the widespread abuse and atrocities. UNICEF should ensure sufficient capacity for programme delivery and play a stronger role in supporting NGOs and community-based organizations, especially in the area of rehabilitation and reintegration of formerly abducted children.

148. The Regional Director explained that although support to capacity-building remained a major challenge, UNICEF was taking steps in this area and was also working to increase the involvement of civil society in service delivery at the subnational level. UNICEF was seriously engaged with Governments on child rights and advocated for rights with States and non-State parties, publicizing issues of abuse and atrocities.

West and Central Africa

149. The Executive Board had before it the draft CPDs for Burkina Faso, Ghana and Liberia (E/ICEF/2005/P/L.3-E/ICEF/2005/P/L.5), which were introduced by the Regional Director.

150. The representatives of Burkina Faso and Ghana stated that the programmes in their respective countries were consistent with national policies and priorities, and particularly aligned with the PRSs. Both delegations expressed their satisfaction with the work of UNICEF in their countries and underlined their Government's commitment to children.

151. On the draft CPD for **Burkina Faso**, speakers highlighted the high quality of the UNICEF programme, especially in the areas of child survival, child protection and girls' education. Speakers underlined the success in girls' enrolment, and in the fight against child labour and trafficking and female genital mutilation. Another delegation said UNICEF could achieve greater impact through policy dialogue with the Government and harmonization and closer coordination with other United Nations agencies and donors. A delegation said that efforts should be made to integrate "satellite schools" into the education mainstream.

152. On the draft CPD for **Ghana**, delegations commented positively on the successful approach to the ACSD programme in the Upper East region, which had contributed to a significant reduction in child and infant mortality while national rates stagnated. Support was expressed for scaling up this strategy across the country, including its mainstreaming and full integration into the programme of work of the Ministry of Health. Appreciation was also expressed for UNICEF efforts to help the Government develop a social protection strategy. Equal support was noted for UNICEF work in girls' education, putting gender equality within reach by the end of 2005 or during 2006.

153. A delegation praised UNICEF for its humanitarian work in **Liberia**, especially in education, child protection and water and sanitation, and encouraged UNICEF to work more closely with other United Nations agencies.

East Asia and the Pacific

154. The Executive Board had before it the five draft CPDs for Cambodia, China, Myanmar, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam (E/ICEF/2005/P/L.7-E/ICEF/2005/P/L.10 and Corr.1, and E/ICEF/2005/P/L.11), which were introduced by the Regional Director.

155. The representative of **Cambodia** commended UNICEF for the inclusion of all stakeholders in the programme and pledged his Government's commitment to children. Other delegations found that the programme was consistent with the country's development needs; integrated a rights perspective; reflected how past cooperation made current programme interventions more effective; and used results- and evidenced-based models. More attention, however, should be given to child protection issues, especially child trafficking. It was recommended that the country programme extend coverage of national programmes beyond

the current six provinces; address the quality of services, including through the development of monitoring and evaluation plans; strengthen the partnership with the iodine deficiency disorders programme; and expand the vitamin A programme. The Regional Director responded that UNICEF would support nationwide implementation of critical child survival programmes. The concentration on six provinces was meant to model initiatives for decentralization and inter-sectoral convergence. Monitoring was important and lessons learned at the provincial level would be documented for national policy and standards-setting.

156. The representative of **Myanmar** expressed satisfaction at the close cooperation with UNICEF over five decades, most recently in the preparation of the new country programme and in the prevention of child trafficking and recruitment of child soldiers. Other delegations expressed appreciation for the focus on health and nutrition, given high infant mortality rates. However, the CPD did not address the rights of children of ethnic minorities, including children of IDPs living in the border region of Thailand, and of child soldiers. Information was requested on the work of UNICEF with civil society. The Regional Director responded that UNICEF would expand its subnational presence, targeting the most vulnerable areas, while working with local communities, community-based organizations and civil society as it had in the tsunami response.

157. The representative of **Timor-Leste** expressed gratitude to UNICEF for the assistance given to his young country, especially in establishing a national commission for child rights. Delegations welcomed country programmes' links with the Millennium Development Goals and national development plan and the focus on strengthening capacities in health and education. Asked how programmes could be made more sustainable, the Regional Director said that UNICEF would continue to support capacity-building of national counterparts, as exemplified by the secondment of a UNICEF education adviser to the Ministry of Education.

158. The representative of **Viet Nam** expressed appreciation to UNICEF, which was the first United Nations agency to support to children and women in Viet Nam, for its work during 30 years of cooperation. Other speakers cited the positive efforts of UNICEF towards sustainable development, protection of the rights of children, support for prevention of child injuries, efforts in fighting HIV/AIDS, cooperation with NGOs in nutrition and child protection, and an increased focus on policy and dialogue with the Government. The joint strategy of the United Nations agencies through the UNDAF was commended. It was suggested that the CPD refer to the Millennium Development Goals, alignment with national goals and the country programme's contribution to the PRS. Clarification was sought on the discrepancies between national data sources and those used by UNICEF.

South Asia

159. The Executive Board had before it the draft CPD for Bangladesh (E/ICEF/2005/P/L.12), which was introduced by the Regional Director.

160. The representative of **Bangladesh** said that the Millennium Development Goals for child mortality could be met with a package of interventions, including expanded education for females, effective family planning programmes that motivated women to delay child-bearing and expanded immunization coverage. Efforts must be redoubled to eradicate arsenic contamination of drinking water from tube-wells installed with the support of UNICEF. He welcomed the partnership with UNICEF in advocacy and communication on HIV/AIDS, focusing on adolescents, and called for greater emphasis on strengthening the family. Other delegations commended the inclusion of HIV/AIDS as a cross-cutting issue, although one speaker asked about coordination among agencies, particularly with UNAIDS. The Regional Director replied that UNICEF would continue to work closely with civil society and other agencies, particularly in reaching adolescents.

161. A speaker said that UNICEF remained a non-pool funder of the health SWAp, expressed concern that UNICEF support to the health sector would parallel the Health and Nutrition Programme Strategic Plan (HNPSP) and said that results achieved through the country programme should be considered within the overall results framework of the HNPSP. The speaker sought clarification about monitoring of programmes under the UNDAF, and said that joint programming would be particularly relevant in the area of safe motherhood with WHO and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and in the area of adolescence with UNFPA. The Regional Director said that the United Nations country team created a framework for monitoring and evaluation with indicators, but this was evolving. Joint programming was being discussed in areas of common interest such as marginalized populations and urban slums.

162. Asked what UNICEF had done to make the current programme sustainable while developing national capacities, the Regional Director said that UNICEF was not implementing specific projects but providing support to the Government at national and local levels.

The Americas and the Caribbean

163. The Executive Board had before it the draft CPD for Peru (E/ICEF/2005/P/L.6), which was introduced by the Regional Director.

164. The representative of **Peru** said that the proposed country programme would aid the Government in achieving the Millennium Development Goals; was framed within the decentralization process; was based on human rights; integrated a gender perspective; and focused on the areas of the Andes, the Amazon and the marginal urban areas.

165. Various speakers highlighted the significant progress in child survival, particularly reducing infant mortality; praised the human rights approach of the CPD and the role of UNICEF in advocating for the rights of the excluded; congratulated UNICEF for its efforts in bilingual education and education in the Amazon region; commended the alignment of the programme with decentralization, the UNDAF, the national poverty-reduction plan and the

Acuerdo Nacional (national accord); expressed satisfaction with the fact that the entire United Nations country team had adopted DevInfo as a common standard; expressed concern about the high index of poverty; highlighted the need for HIV/AIDS prevention; warned against too much dispersal of resources; and stressed the need to work closely with the communities affected by violence to promote a culture of peace.

Central and Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic States

166. The Executive Board had before it the draft CPDs for Albania, Belarus, Bulgaria, Georgia, Russian Federation, Turkey and Ukraine (E/ICEF/2005/P/L.13, E/ICEF/2005/P/L.14 and Corr.1, and E/ICEF/2005/P/L.15-E/ICEF/2005/P/L.19), which were introduced by the Regional Director.

167. The representative of **Albania** emphasized that the Government attached great importance to the protection of child rights, was in the process of ratifying the two Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and showed willingness to develop a comprehensive National Plan of Action for Children. Another speaker said that attention should be given to the situation of Roma children and to strengthening the decentralization process. The Regional Director said that UNICEF would work with other United Nations agencies in Kukas, in the northern part of the country, to build local capacities in planning, service delivery and monitoring of rights, with special attention to the most disadvantaged groups.

168. The representative of **Belarus** said that cooperation with UNICEF could be enhanced by strengthening the UNICEF presence in the country. He said the CPD required 'some fine-tuning' of statistical data and more attention had to be given to trafficking, assistance to disabled children, the prevention of injuries and support to young people affected by the Chernobyl disaster. He called for an increased level of non-core resources for the new country programme. Another speaker encouraged the Government to support NGOs, especially local ones, in responding to the needs of children. The Regional Director said that discussions with national counterparts to finalize the CPD had already started.

169. The delegate of **Bulgaria** welcomed the strengthened capacity of UNICEF in the country and said that the new country programme would further the improvement of national policies and programmes for children, particularly in the areas of social services, advocacy, child rights monitoring and young people's development and protection. In response to a request for more information on programme implementation and budget allocation, the Regional Director suggested a bilateral discussion.

170. On the draft CPD for **Georgia**, a delegation commended the United Nations country team, including UNICEF, on its professionalism and well-coordinated work done with all partners in the country. The draft CPD was realistic and fully aligned with the UNDAF priorities.

171. The representative of the **Russian Federation** expressed his support for the draft CPD, and emphasized the importance of continued efforts by UNICEF in the Northern Caucasus, focusing on education, restoration of schools and psychosocial rehabilitation of children. He stressed the need to enhance cooperation with UNICEF in helping children affected by the Chernobyl accident; data collection and an improved knowledge base on trends affecting children, both at the national and subnational levels; and developing partnerships between the country office and line ministries, local authorities, academic centres and the private sector in order to mobilize more national resources for children. He welcomed the UNICEF initiative to mobilize the private sector to support children's concerns. The Regional Director said that all the partnerships developed in the context of the new programme had been established within the framework of cooperation discussed with the Government. She stressed that a decentralized approach combined with programmatic rigour would ensure the most efficient and effective use of UNICEF resources.

172. The representative of **Turkey** acknowledged the long-term efforts of UNICEF in supporting Turkish children, starting from free milk in schools in the early 1950s to the current rights-based approach for children, young people and women. She expressed appreciation for the joint efforts of the country office, line ministries and institutions in the preparation of the draft CPD.

173. Expressing his Government's support for the draft CPD, the representative of **Ukraine** called for adequate resources for the protection of children and young people from HIV/AIDS. The issue of children affected by the Chernobyl tragedy needed to be reflected in the revised CPD, and trafficking of children and young women should be addressed by multilateral efforts both at the national and international levels. The Regional Director relied that the Chernobyl issue would be better reflected in the revised CPD and that more resources had been mobilized for HIV/AIDS.

Middle East and North Africa

174. The Executive Board had before it the draft area programme document (APD) for **Palestinian children and women in Jordan, Lebanon, the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the Syrian Arab Republic** (E/ICEF/2005/P/L.20), which was introduced by the Regional Director.

175. A number of delegates commended UNICEF for increasing cooperation with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and reaffirmed support for the work of UNICEF in the region, particularly in ECD and psychosocial health programmes.

176. On the draft APD, it was suggested that: (a) additional resources be given to the Occupied Palestinian Territory and neighbouring countries; (b) the document clarify that the major partner of UNICEF in working with Palestinian refugees in the Syrian Arab Republic i

the General Administration for Palestine Arab Refugees and note the achievements of this partnership; (c) the adult HIV prevalence rate in Palestinian refugee camps in that country be verified and the source noted, and emphasis should be given to playgrounds and environmental sanitation in the camps; (d) the document include more disaggregated data, especially on girls' education, as well as more gender analysis; (e) the importance of the universality of human rights, irrespective of ethnicity, emphasized; and (f) efforts for the protection and health of young children and adolescents be strengthened.

177. Speakers also requested information on: (a) the impact of microcredit schemes on the household income of women living in camps in Lebanon; (b) the United Nations common desk assessment of the West Bank and Gaza; (c) modalities to further strengthen programme planning and monitoring, especially in light of lessons learned from the 2004-2005 area programme; (d) means to obtain better data from national and subnational information systems; (e) ways to enhance the capacity of line ministries to incorporate a child rights approach into policy development, especially regarding sector-wide and sector-investment programmes; and (f) the availability of figures on income for refugees, separated from figures on gross national income per capita.

178. The Regional Director praised the Medium-Term Development Plan devised by the Ministry of Planning of the Palestinian Authority as a framework for progress. Few funds were available to UNICEF in the neighbouring countries for Palestinian refugee programmes. There were sensitivities and difficulties involved in obtaining income figures for refugees but it would be possible to consult UNRWA, which has published such figures in two countries.

179. See annex, decision 2005/4 for the decision adopted by the Board on the draft CPDs.

Report by Regional Director for Europe

180. The Regional Director said that with over 6 million individual donors, major alliances in the private sector and the support of tens of thousands of volunteers, the National Committees mobilized over one third of UNICEF income and advocated for child rights. Some National Committees participated in the submission of national reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child. Private sector fund-raising remained the primary purpose of the Committees, which in 2004 contributed $566 million to UNICEF, 15 per cent more than in 2003 and the highest amount ever. The National Committees had been swift, focused and crucial to the UNICEF response to the Indian Ocean tsunami, raising nearly two thirds of the $500 million received by UNICEF. Globally, only the Red Cross raised more funds from the private sector.

Recommendation for additional regular resources for approved country programmes

Recommendation for additional other resources for approved country programmes

181. The Executive Board had before it a recommendation for approval of additional regular resources for approved country programmes (E/ICEF/2005/P/L.21) and a recommendation for approval of additional other resources for approved country programmes (E/ICEF/2005/P/L.22). Both recommendations were introduced by the Director, Programme Division and approved by the Executive Board without comment (see annex, decisions 2005/5 and 2005/6).

D. Progress report on implementation of decision 2002/4 on approval of country programmes

182. The progress report (E/ICEF/2005/8) was introduced by the Chief, Strategic Planning and Programme Guidance, Division of Policy and Planning. Speakers expressed their continued support for the modified procedures for the consideration and approval of CPDs adopted by the Executive Board in 2002. A delegation emphasized the need for country programmes to contain well-formulated results based on long-term strategies, measurable targets and time-bound goals, and to indicate the contribution of UNICEF to the achievement of national priorities and internationally agreed goals.

183. The secretariat was asked if it was possible to provide a draft summary results matrix with the draft CPD as well as reporting on past expenditures, including for emergency response, and proposed budgets by MTSP category. The secretariat responded that it would be difficult to provide a draft results matrix in time for the annual session; the earlier submission which might affect quality standards and the country-level consultation process.

184. In response to another question, the secretariat said that the timing of country programme submissions to the Executive Boards was being discussed by the UNDG Executive Committee agencies. While UNICEF found the present timetable acceptable, other agencies preferred submitting draft CPDs at the second regular session in September. A delegation requested the secretariat to continue consultations with the other Executive Committee agencies and to prepare common proposals for any changes in the approval process and further harmonization.

185. See annex, decision 2005/9 for the decision adopted by the Executive Board.

E. Report on internal audit activities in 2004

186. The Executive Board had before it the report on internal audit activities in 2004 (E/ICEF/2005/AB/L.2), which was introduced by the Director, Office of Internal Audit (OIA).

Mr. Toshiyuki Niwa, Deputy Executive Director, provided a statement in response to the report.

187. Delegations expressed appreciation for the organization's professional approach to internal audit, and the transparent and candid report. Three members took note of the work of OIA with UNDG agencies on harmonization of policies and procedures.

188. In response to a comment that OIA should better disseminate audit findings to contribute to organizational learning, the Director said that reporting facilities had been developed that were easily accessible by country offices and management. OIA also prepared summary reports, which helped to identify systemic causes and indicated necessary improvements in policies and procedures. One speaker suggested that the use of the self-assessment tools prepared by OIA be encouraged to help reduce the number of unsatisfactory ratings in country offices. Another speaker queried whether the endorsement of audit guidelines by division directors compromised the independence of the audit process and investigations. The Director explained that audit guidelines were developed in cooperation with headquarters divisions to ensure that auditors performed the correct and relevant tests based on existing procedures. Investigations were performed separately.

189. Several members, while noting overall satisfactory ratings, expressed concern about country offices' weaknesses in financial and programme management, cash assistance and supply operations. Some speakers said that oversight by regional offices and global awareness of basic programming practices could be improved; requested information on the actions undertaken by management; and called for urgency in addressing outstanding and persistent audit observations.

190. The Deputy Executive Director noted that UNICEF intentionally set itself very demanding performance standards and that its audit function was fully transparent to the United Nations Board of Auditors. An audit report was not a management scorecard. Rather, it acted as an early warning system that identified and assessed potential risks. An unsatisfactory rating did not necessarily indicate failure, mismanagement or fraud.

191. He said that overall compliance with audit recommendations was very high. Management aimed to address the underlying and often systemic causes, which might have to be addressed through a clearer assignment of accountabilities and better training programmes. For example, the Division of Finance and Administrative Management (DFAM) had placed financial and administrative reference documentation on an easily searchable website, had incorporated financial issues into the basic programme process training and made training courses available over the Intranet. DFAM staff increasingly participated in regional and global workshops of operations staff and in country visits.

192. In addition, the Supply Division had issued new supply planning directives, developed guidelines to strengthen end-use monitoring and evaluation of supplies, and helped to improve ProMS to better assist supply planning. In the area of basic programme management

controls, about 60 per cent of the audit recommendations had been closed, and there was agreement on how to resolve the remaining open recommendations. The distribution of accountabilities was being discussed, and the reporting on key performance indicators envisaged in the MTSP 2006-2009 would further strengthen oversight. Management had initiated a review to simplify the sometimes complex internal business processes, and had proposed to assess managers' track records on audit findings when considering reassignments.

193. The Executive Board took note of the report.

F. Child protection: oral report

194. The report, presented by the Chief of Child Protection, highlighted the relevance of child protection to the Millennium Development Goals and the need to strengthen national child protection systems, community involvement and partnerships. It explained the protective environment framework and the importance of investing in child protection long term.

195. Delegations said that the leadership role played by UNICEF helped to ensure that child protection issues were reflected in CCAs, UNDAFs, PRSs, and SWAps. Other delegations raised concerns about resource allocation and suggested the strengthening of staff capacities for child protection. More information was requested on the protective environment framework and for examples of its successful application.

196. Speakers also addressed the importance of analysing child protection interventions, lessons learned, best practices, evaluations and organizational learning; the need for better integration of gender; the crucial role of partnerships, in particular with NGOs and civil society; the importance of support for the United Nations Study on Violence against Children and national consultations; the importance of child protection as a focus area; the need to amplify the voices of children; the importance of psychosocial support for children whose rights to protection are violated, including more guidance at the operational level; the need to make child protection a priority in emergency situations; the key role of prevention; the importance of education, including issues of quality and content; and the need to address the increase in violence against children.

197. The secretariat cited the example of the tsunami response to illustrate the high priority given to psychosocial support in emergencies and to partnerships. The "Inter-agency Guiding Principles on Unaccompanied and Separated Children" and common guidelines on psychosocial work being prepared within the Inter-Agency Standing Committee were good examples of collaboration and progress. Responding to a question on how to take a more strategic approach to child protection, the Chief cited the example of a recent mid-term review in Morocco that evaluated child protection in terms of the protective environment framework. This led to a reorientation of the programme and a systematic examination of what works. UNICEF also planned to conduct a meta-evaluation of all internal and external evaluations addressing child protection.

G. HIV/AIDS: oral report

198. The report, presented by the Senior Adviser for HIV/AIDS, focused on the changing role of UNICEF within the HIV/AIDS landscape, the programmatic challenges faced by the organization, including within the framework of UNAIDS, strategies for scaling-up and responses to children affected by the pandemic.

199. Delegations expressed support for the work of UNICEF in this area, particularly the focus on HIV/AIDS and its key results included in the draft MTSP for 2006-2009. In addition, speakers welcomed the increased attention paid to the "three ones" principle; the joint work on the 16 rapid assessments and action plans for national responses to children; and the strengthened collaboration with UNHCR. The Global Campaign on Children and AIDS would be instrumental in advocating and mobilizing resources for children.

200. A delegation said that there should be greater focus on abstinence, while others said that sexual and reproductive health should be more explicitly included in the MTSP. It was also said that UNICEF should support both short- and long-term strategies in response to HIV/AIDS; promote the inclusion of HIV/AIDS in development tools such as the PRSPs, SWAps and national budgets; and increase expenditure on HIV/AIDS.

H. UNICEF health and nutrition strategy: oral report

201. The Chiefs of the Health and Nutrition Sections presented the rationale, process, guiding principles and expected results of a joint health and nutrition strategy to be presented to the Executive Board for approval at the first regular session of 2006. The current individual strategies were approved by the Board over a decade ago.

202. The strategy, which will articulate the UNICEF contribution to the Millennium Development Goals related to health and nutrition, will be guided by six principles: (a) result-oriented and accountability-based partnerships with shared goals using, as appropriate, joint programming and policies under national leadership; (b) selection of evidence-based, situation-specific and high-impact health and nutrition interventions; (c) linking the scaling-up of proven interventions to the strengthening of health and nutrition systems, through more effective national capacity-building; (d) a rights-based approach that aims at reaching the unreached; (e) working at all levels to develop appropriate linkages between international action and national policies; (f) a life-cycle approach which underscores the need to ensure a continuum of care from pregnancy through childhood.

203. Delegations expressed support for the proposed strategy, which they said provided a valuable opportunity for UNICEF to reassert its traditionally important role in health and nutrition. UNICEF was urged to take the lead in nutrition, particularly nutrition assessments and breastfeeding. UNICEF was also urged to ensure national ownership and to address the issues of national capacity-building, human resource mobilization and training for UNICEF

staff. The strategy should explicitly state the importance of partnerships and take into account all relevant health- and nutrition-related global policies, strategies and resolutions. It should clearly articulate support to national plans, to strengthening of health systems and to the development of local capacities and resources. Due emphasis must be given to maternal mortality reduction, sexual and reproductive health and newborn care, as well as to children over five years of age and adolescents.

204. UNICEF was urged to scale up such interventions as the Accelerated Child Survival and Development programme and to avoid vertical approaches. Immunization should not be a stand-alone programme as this could lead to fragmented efforts in terms of services. UNICEF was urged to seek sufficient resources for young child feeding in partnership with organizations working in this area. Speakers expressed concern that joining the health and nutrition strategies might run the risk of decreasing resources for both areas, which need an increased allocation of regular resources.

205. The secretariat said that these important issues would be emphasized in the final strategy. A balance would be struck between 'quick-wins' and a more systematic approach. UNICEF agreed completely about the need to support country-led efforts and to advocate with Governments to increase budgetary allocations.

I. UNICEF/WHO Global Immunization Vision and Strategy (GIVS)

206. The Executive Board had before it a note by the secretariat (E/ICEF/2005/9) and a document that had been submitted to the fifty-eighth World Health Assembly (WHO document A58/12). The reports were introduced by the Director, Supply Division, and the Chief of the Health Section.

207. Delegations welcomed the GIVS, in particular the focus on reaching the under-served, the less fragmented approach to strengthening immunization systems and the linkage with other health interventions. Speakers commended the collaborative process between UNICEF, WHO and their partners in developing the GIVS. The challenge will be in financing GIVS and ensuring linkages with other efforts. Several delegations requested clarification about the criteria used by WHO and UNICEF for the introduction of new vaccines, adding that new vaccines must be made available to all children at an affordable price. A delegation recommended that the MTSP be updated to reflect the goals of the GIVS, saying that the success of the GIVS was its setting of goals for immunization coverage and reduction of specific diseases.

208. The secretariat said that the GIVS focused on using existing systems, building on infrastructures established by accelerated diseases control programmes, and maximizing linkage with other interventions. It would also give priority to strengthening of health systems. The important role of WHO regarding effectiveness studies and pre-qualification of new vaccines was pointed out and the fact that decisions on the introduction of new vaccines are country driven. Demand creation and long-term financing would give manufacturers

incentive to produce new vaccines and reduce costs. More investment in immunization was needed, particularly through new financing mechanisms.

209. See annex, decision 2005/ 7 for the decision adopted by the Executive Board.

J. UNICEF and post-conflict transition: oral report

210. The Deputy Director, Programme Division, reported on the work of UNICEF in post-conflict and post-disaster transition since the last oral report presented to the Board at the first regular session of 2004. A discussion paper to be presented to the Board at the first regular session of 2006 would outline the medium- and long-term strategy of UNICEF for countries in transition and the plans to integrate transition work throughout the organization's policies and operations.

211. Delegations welcomed the focus on transition at both the operational and strategic policy levels, particularly in the draft MTSP. UNICEF was uniquely placed to address transition, as it was often present before, during and after a crisis situation, as in the Sudan and the tsunami-affected countries. The comparative advantage of UNICEF was its ability to ensure national ownership in reconstruction and rehabilitation through already-established contacts with government and civil society. Successful transition depended on coordination among all actors, including Governments, the United Nations, the international financial institutions (IFIs) and donors.

212. A speaker, on behalf of a regional group, said that strategic management of the post-conflict period was fundamental to recovery. The group supported the work of UNICEF in disarmament, demobilization, rehabilitation and reintegration of child soldiers and their psychosocial support. In education, UNICEF should focus more on diversified informal education, including vocational training, as a crucial means of reintegration. Another delegation suggested that the practice of increasing partnerships with NGOs in emergency assistance be used in reconstruction as well.

213. Clarification was sought on the coherence of the work of UNICEF in post-crisis transition with the role of the Secretary-General's recently proposed Peace-building Commission. The secretariat responded that UNICEF work in this area would be compatible with whatever new structure emerged.

214. Asked for an update on the resource mobilization mechanism for transition and assurance that the World Bank was involved in all stages of the transition, the secretariat confirmed that mechanisms such as the Common Humanitarian Action Plan and the Consolidated Appeals Process were instrumental in securing timely resources for early-recovery programming in transition. UNICEF was working with other agencies to develop a consolidated position on participation in the World Bank-managed Multi-Donor Trust Funds. UNICEF would continue to strengthen its cooperation with the World Bank and had

collaborated with IFIs in every transition situation. A World Bank team leader was involved in all stages of post-crisis joint needs assessments.

215. Responding to a comment about strengthening the roles of the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, the Resident Coordinator and United Nations country teams, the secretariat said that UNICEF supported an enhanced role for the Resident Coordinator and the strong participation of country teams, and would continue to collaborate with United Nations partners. Another speaker stressed that natural-disaster recovery was also part of the process from relief to recovery.

K. UNICEF follow-up to General Assembly resolution 59/250 of 22 December 2004 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system: oral report

216. The Director of the Office of United Nations Affairs and External Relations highlighted a number of specific actions already taken since adoption of the General Assembly resolution, as well as ongoing work. These included strengthening national ownership and participation, partnership and national capacity-building; continuation of United Nations reform, including strengthening of the resident coordinator system, development of joint office models, results matrices and accountabilities, and innovative funding mechanisms; further simplification to complement harmonization efforts; and establishment of guidelines, benchmarks and targets.

217. UNICEF, working in the UNDG Executive Committee, had established its more specific implementation plan focusing on: capacity building; reducing transaction costs and increasing efficiency; greater coherence of activities within the context of the CCA/UNDAF, the resident coordinator system and the United Nations country team; strengthening the evaluation function; increased emphasis on gender mainstreaming; and keeping the inter-governmental process informed and engaged. The UNDG work plan will be shared with delegations at the upcoming session of the Economic and Social Council as part of the UNDG Executive Committee Issues Paper.

218. Delegations said that the report reflected the commitment of UNICEF to reform. Speakers expressed support for the senior-level task force that had been established by UNICEF to strengthen internal support for reform activities, and the secretariat was asked to provide regular updates on its work.

219. Some delegations noted that the background paper to this report did not address gender mainstreaming. Delegations expressed support for the important contribution UNICEF is making to system-wide collaboration on evaluation, and hoped that it will lead to joint inter-agency evaluations of UNDAF achievements, in full partnership with programme countries.

220. UNICEF was asked to elaborate on its plans to provide further support to the resident coordinator system, joint programmes at the country level both within and outside the United

Nations family, and capacity-building, particularly South-South collaboration. Delegates stressed the importance of national ownership of development programmes, the CCA/UNDAF process and activities undertaken during the transition from relief to development, and coordination of external assistance by the recipient Government. In the context of the implementation of the TCPR, development assistance provided by the United Nations system must support the achievement of national priorities, even if they differed from the Millennium Development Goals.

221. The secretariat said that the comments made would be fully reflected in the next Executive Director's report to the Economic and Social Council, to be presented to the Board at the first regular session of 2006.

L. Reports on field visits

222. The report on the field visit of Executive Board members to Ethiopia (E/ICEF/2005/CRP.5) was introduced by the Rapporteur, Ms. Jane Asani-Ndelemani, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Malawi to the United Nations. The team commended UNICEF for its work facing challenges that included humanitarian emergencies, HIV/AIDS, food insecurity, gender inequality and high school drop-out rates. She also praised the Government for its focus on emergency prevention and long-term development rather than on mere emergency response. Citing the "tremendous experience gained" from the visit, she recommended a continuation of such field visits.

223. The representative of Ethiopia said that Ethiopia must receive more international assistance as it made the transition from emergencies to long-term development. The one-month delay mentioned in the field trip report in launching the safety net programme should not deter the international community from supporting that important programme. He commended UNICEF for its increasing flexibility and speedy implementation of programmes.

224. The report on the **joint field visit to Azerbaijan** (E/ICEF/2005/CRP.6) was introduced by the Rapporteur, Mr Carlos Enrique García González, Minister Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of El Salvador. He said that the visit sought to understand how the joint work of the four agencies (UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP) could contribute to and complement the work of the Government to meet the Millennium Development Goals.

225. As a country in transition, Azerbaijan faced political, economic and social challenges, which could be overcome through improved joint efforts of the Government and civil society, with the support of the international community. The involvement of the Bretton Woods institutions, bilateral partners and civil society in this process could also be strengthened. The country had seen strong economic growth, largely because of the sale of petroleum products, and it was important that these gains be disseminated throughout the society. The mission was satisfied to see that the Millennium Development Goals were being complemented by national goals in the area of good governance. Azerbaijan had a unique opportunity to

overcome poverty and to meet the goals by 2015, and the country team could play a more strategic role in terms of political dialogue and strategic support.

226. The representative of Azerbaijan expressed appreciation for the joint visit, which allowed participants to assess the situation on the ground, to detect existing problems and obstacles and to identify the country's needs and priorities. He commended the country team for its work, and highlighted the Government's effective cooperation with UNICEF in particular. His Government supported the report's emphasis on joint programming, coordination and inter-agency cooperation. He highlighted the main finding of the mission: that despite positive trends, the economy of Azerbaijan was still in transition and needed the continued support of the international community.

227. A speaker said that during the joint field visit, participants saw excellent coordination among the staff of the various agencies working under the Resident Coordinator, who was instrumental in enhancing dialogue with national policy makers. Azerbaijan had launched a 10-year PRSP aligned with the Millennium Development Goals, and the United Nations was providing support through technical assistance and building national capacities. There were opportunities for the United Nations and the Government to address such issues as accelerating the process of social reform already under way, lowering infant and child mortality rates, moving from institutional to parental care for children in need of protection, addressing the hardships faced by IDPs and increasing the level of awareness of HIV among the general population.

228. The representative of the Russian Federation hoped that the findings of the mission would not only contribute to improved relations between the Government of Azerbaijan and the United Nations as a whole, but also contribute to the country's social and economic development. However, as a participant in the mission, his Government regretted that it was not satisfied with the process used for finalizing the report. The process had not been transparent or constructive, deadlines had not been provided for the submission of comments and the process for the so-called "silent agreement" had been unsatisfactory. The latest corrections to the draft had been made without the agreement of the participants.

229. As a co-chair of the Minsk Group of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the Russian Federation believed in the importance of constructive political cooperation by the United Nations in settlement of the Nagorny Karabakh conflict, taking into account the principle of territorial integrity and other important principles of the United Nations and the OSCE. It was important that United Nations documents dealing directly or indirectly with the issue use agreed formulations. Unfortunately, in a number of places in the report, the approach had not been respected. The secretariat bore particular responsibility for these problems, as it was responsible for ensuring that only duly agreed documents were brought to the Board for its approval.

230. The representative of Armenia expressed serious concern over the use of terminology in the report, particularly in paragraph 39, which was not acceptable language in the OSCE,

the forum that was dealing directly with the resolution of the Nagorny Karabakh conflict, or the relevant Security Council resolutions. The use of politically charged and incorrect terminology in documents that do not deal with actual conflict resolution processes is dangerous and could negatively impact the negotiation process. Her delegation requested that the report be brought in line with the accepted United Nations language.

231. The representative of Azerbaijan said that UNICEF, UNDP and UNFPA were not subsidiary organs of the OSCE, and all United Nations agencies had to use the language approved by the Security Council. He invited members of the Board to use that language, which the Russian Federation had approved.

232. The representative of the Russian Federation said that the Security Council resolution in question had been adopted prior to the establishment of the Minsk Group. The Executive Board was not the proper forum for this political discussion.

233. Several other delegations stressed that the Executive Board was not a political forum, and said that the importance of the field visits was being diminished by a political discussion.

234. The President also reminded delegations that the Executive Board was not a political forum. The Bureau had discussed the matter extensively and had agreed that the Board should take note of all comments, but would not take any decision on any field visits. The reports of the field visits were for information only. Clearly, the interested parties had different views, which would be reflected in the record of the meeting. The same report had already been submitted to the Executive Board of WFP, and had been accepted with the full agreement of all members.

M. Address by the President of the UNICEF Global Staff Association

235. The new Chairperson of the Global Staff Association (GSA) said that he was the first head of the GSA who was a national staff member and worked in the field. He went on to report on the recent annual general meeting of the GSA, during which staff representatives had identified concerns and ways to improve UNICEF. More clarity was needed on United Nations reform and staff should be fully involved. Staff, especially those who are locally recruited and who commonly earn far less than their counterparts in other agencies, should have appropriate salaries. The claims process for the Medical Insurance Plan, used by field offices, should be outsourced to ensure the confidentiality of participants. UNICEF had taken a good step in working with the Ombudsperson Office to deal with staff grievances. The Personal and Professional Development (P2D) training has helped staff take more control of their futures but UNICEF should not abdicate its responsibility to promote staff development. Finally, merit and competence must be the criteria for hiring and promoting staff, including national staff, who commonly stagnate in their careers.

N. Other matters

Report on the work of the Innocenti Research Centre

236. The Director of the Innocenti Research Centre (IRC) reviewed the Centre's programme for 2006-2008, which would be presented to the Board at the second regular session in September. Mandated to undertake field-driven, action-oriented research, the IRC contributed to the advocacy, policy formulation and programme development of UNICEF. A recent evaluation stressed the centrality of the Centre's agenda to UNICEF, and found that the Centre also plays an important role in advancing the policy agenda on behalf of children. The evaluation underscored the importance of resources in maintaining the Centre's academic and intellectual freedom, in sustaining a research agenda, in enhancing the research culture of UNICEF and in contributing to the implementation of the MTSP for 2006-2009. The next programme would focus on child poverty, the allocation of resources for children, and migration and children; implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child; and special protection concerns, among them trafficking, violence and armed conflict.

O. Closing statements

237. The Executive Director thanked Mr. Joe Judd, Director of Programme Division, who would soon retire after nearly 29 years of service to UNICEF. She appreciated the Board's agreement with key elements of the draft MTSP for 2006-2009 and acknowledged members' calls for more accountability. UNICEF would increase its efforts to measure results and support of national capacity development, collaboration with other United Nations agencies and country, regional and global partnerships.

238. The President praised the spirit of cooperation and compromise that characterized the session, which had resulted in a number of significant decisions.

Part three
Second regular session of 2005

Held at United Nations Headquarters from 28-30 September 2005

I. Organization of the session

A. Opening of the session

239. The President said that the session came at an opportune time, following the World Summit of 14-16 September, during which world leaders had reconfirmed their commitment to the Millennium Development Goals and discussed how to reach the Goals and achieve peace and security, human rights, United Nations reform and sustainable development. The Board would profit from that discussion, especially as it considered the UNICEF medium-term strategic plan (MTSP) for 2006-2009. The MTSP was the culmination of months of highly participatory deliberations between the Board and the secretariat.

240. The President discussed his recent field visit to Cambodia and Thailand. In Cambodia, he was struck by the positive trends in social indicators and the notable work of UNICEF in health and education. Equally impressive was the active and much-appreciated participation of UNICEF in the United Nations country team and in the sector-wide approaches, especially for education, where UNICEF played the leading role. In both countries, where he met the resident coordinators and government and other officials, he had seen how much attention was being paid to the Millennium Development Goals. He concluded by discussing his participation in the very promising efforts of UNICEF and its partners to engage Islamic leaders in support of children. On 21 September, he had participated in the launch of the multi-agency report, *Investing in the Children of the Islamic World*, prepared for the First Ministerial Meeting on Children, to be held in Rabat from 7 to 9 November 2005.

241. The Executive Director described some of the developments in her first 150 days as head of UNICEF. Since the annual session in June, she had visited Sri Lanka to see firsthand the ongoing recovery from the tsunami; attended a board meeting of the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization, of which UNICEF would assume the chair later this year; seen innovative approaches to integrated delivery of services, when she visited Kenya with economist Jeffrey Sachs; witnessed the phenomenon of "night commuters" in Uganda; and travelled to China, where she had focused on the needs of the girl child at the Beijing+10 women's conference and attended a regional human-rights meeting on trafficking. In recent months, UNICEF had responded to crisis situations in Niger, and in the Gulf Coast region devastated by Hurricane Katrina, among others.

242. As the Secretary-General had stated, Hurricane Katrina was an opportunity for the United Nations to repay the United States for its past generosity during other worldwide crisis situations. The UNICEF contribution was based on its core areas of expertise, including technical assistance, logistical support, and pre-packaged supplies such as School in a Box and Recreation in a Box. The United States Fund for UNICEF had also decided to donate half the proceeds of this year's Trick or Treat for UNICEF campaign to hurricane relief. Through the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, UNICEF was taking on new roles in humanitarian crises, including lead-agency designation for nutrition, for water and sanitation, as well as for

common data services. These would add to existing UNICEF functions during crisis situations, particularly in education and child protection.

243. Earlier this month, UNICEF had helped to launch the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, during the week of the historic World Summit. The Summit Declaration provided a renewed commitment to the Millennium Development Goals, all of which were critical to the world's children and which would continue to guide the work of UNICEF. The Summit Declaration had also provided a strong statement on behalf of children, such as promoting and protecting the rights and welfare of children in armed conflicts. Those basic child rights remained central to the UNICEF mission, and were underscored by the new MTSP.

B. Adoption of the agenda

244. The Executive Board adopted the agenda, timetable and organization of work (E/ICEF/2005/10) for the session, as amended.

245. In accordance with rule 50.2 of the rules of procedure, the Secretary of the Executive Board announced that credentials had been submitted by 41 observer delegations, 3 United Nations bodies, 6 National Committees for UNICEF, 5 NGOs and the NGO Committee on UNICEF.

II. Deliberations of the Executive Board

A. Decisions taken by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2005 that are of relevance to UNICEF: oral report

246. The oral report was presented by the Director of the Office of United Nations Affairs and External Relations, who stated that the Council's substantive session of 2005 had highlighted the importance of the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Declaration Goals. A second important aspect of the session was the increasing focus on the linkages between United Nations activities in development, humanitarian crises, peace and security, environment and human rights. It was also evident during the operational activities segment that the Council was taking an increasingly high-level and policy-related perspective of issues, leaving the more operational aspects to individual Executive Boards.

247. The high-level segment, during which the Council heard keynote addresses by Heads of State and Government, over 100 national delegations, international organizations and members of civil society, was an important contribution to the process leading to the September Summit. The discussions during this segment provided a good snapshot of the evolving global environment within which UNICEF operates. The coordination segment focused attention on the implementation of the agreed international development goals and the role of the United Nations globally and nationally, again closely linked with the September World Summit.

248. During the operational activities segment, the UNICEF Executive Director participated in the annual panel of the heads of the UNDG Executive Committee, together with UNDP, UNFPA and WFP. The dialogue focused on several major themes: strengthening the Resident Coordinator system; programme alignment; the role of regional structures; and sector programmes and national capacity development. In its resolution on operational activities, the Council took note of the work carried out to date within UNDG on the implementation of the TCPR and of the UNDG work programme. The UNICEF secretariat continued to work within the context of the UNDG and the Chief Executive Boards machinery, and would report on progress to date in implementing the TCPR in the Executive Director's annual report to the Council in 2006.

249. The Executive Director and other members of the secretariat participated in panel discussions during the humanitarian affairs segment. The secretariat was following up on the Council's requests made in the ensuing resolution (E/2005/L.19), including: identifying and using appropriate and available local resources and expertise from affected countries and/or their neighbours; and further developing and improving mechanisms for the use of emergency standby capacities, including regional humanitarian capacities. During its general segment, the Council adopted several resolutions of relevance to UNICEF, especially the decisions on the ad hoc advisory groups on Guinea Bissau and Burundi.

B. Medium-term strategic plan for 2006-2009, including the financial medium-term plan

250. Mr. Kul Gautam, Deputy Executive Director, introduced the MTSP (E/ICEF/2005/11) by highlighting the changes made to the plan since the draft version had been presented to the annual session in June. These were: (a) clearer statements on UNICEF support for immunization and maternal and newborn health, as well as on early learning, as part of the focus are on child survival and development; (b) further details of how UNICEF will work with partners and through key partnership mechanisms in the area of basic education, including to restore children's access to education in emergencies; (c) additional refinements and clarifications to the focus areas on HIV/AIDS, child protection, and policy advocacy and partnerships; and (d) the strengthening of strategies and commitments for the mainstreaming of gender issues across all focus areas.

251. Overall, many delegations expressed support for the plan and commended its development as the result of an open, inclusive and participatory process. They agreed that the plan's main strengths were its alignment with the Millennium Development Goals and its reflection of the views that delegations had expressed throughout the preparation process. Some delegations called for a shorter, user-friendly version of the plan to help its dissemination.

252. Several speakers endorsed the importance of the plan's providing a framework for the application of human rights-based approach to programming when implemented at country

level. Many delegations said that the plan was a guiding framework that emphasized gender as a cross-cutting issue in all focus areas. Some delegates said that the implementation guidelines should focus on specific results related to gender mainstreaming, which would be reported on in future annual reports to the Board. Other speakers called for clear targets on United Nations reform and joint programmes. Delegations expressed appreciation for the focus on the marginalized, the indigenous and the poorest segments of society. One delegation said that the plan put the family at its core and that the central role of families in assuring the survival and well-being of children should be recognized by supporting parents and caregivers.

253. It was said that in implementing the plan, UNICEF should ensure follow-up to the recommendations of the 2004 TCPR, the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the outcome of the 2005 United Nations Summit.

254. Some speakers said that the imbalance between contributions to regular and other resources needed to be corrected, and called on donors to address the imbalance through predictable multi-year pledges. A few delegations called on UNICEF to further diversify its funding base, saying that UNICEF could have been bolder in its approach to correcting the imbalance. It was suggested that the predictability of UNICEF funding could be strengthened through increased commitment by donors to thematic funding.

255. Many delegations said that the plan provided a flexible guiding framework for prioritizing UNICEF support at country level, based on an analysis of the situation of children and women and on national priorities. Some speakers said that their Governments already were reflecting the MTSP focus areas in their country programme preparations and the mid-term review processes.

256. Delegations, especially from Africa, welcomed the emphasis on immunization within the focus area on child survival and development, on HIV/AIDS and on basic education and gender equality. A delegation said that malaria was a major cause of mortality in several developing countries, and more needed to be done by UNICEF. It was suggested that the focus on child protection should enhance the capacity of UNICEF to better respond to emerging priorities. One delegation called on UNICEF to play a lead role in issues related to slavery and child trafficking and suggested establishing a global partnership to end the practices. Another delegation called for a stronger role from UNICEF in relation to child soldiers as a part of the inter-agency efforts under Security Council resolution 1612 (2005) on children and armed conflict.

257. Some delegations expressed satisfaction with the plan's provision for a strengthened UNICEF role in "upstream" policy-related activities, including poverty reduction strategies and sector-wide approaches. It was suggested that the Innocenti Research Centre play a prominent role in the research priorities of the plan. Another delegation said that advocacy needed to be backed up by strong projects supported by UNICEF on the ground.

258. Some delegations called for a transparent process in the reporting of indicators from the targets specified in the plan, and for annual reports on the implementation of the plan to include the MTSP targets, targets on organizational performance and key strategies including partnerships, United Nations reform and joint programmes.

259. The Deputy Executive Director said that many of the comments would be reflected in the implementation guidelines that would be issued as a part of the plan's roll-out. The Executive Director said that the plan supported the government commitments reinforced at the recent United Nations Summit. She affirmed the commitment of UNICEF to the Millennium Development Goals and to United Nations reform.

260. See annex, decision 2005/18, for the decision adopted by the Executive Board.

C. Summaries of mid-term reviews and major evaluations of country programmes

261. In his introductory remarks, the Director of the Evaluation Office stressed that the uniqueness and strength of evaluation in UNICEF was its decentralized system, and that mid-term reviews (MTRs) and major evaluations reflected regional realities and diversities. This year, there was greater emphasis on mid-term reviews due to the number of countries that were planning their new strategies and programmes in 2004. Also, the number of joint evaluations reported had increased significantly.

262. The meta-evaluation of the quality of UNICEF-supported evaluations revealed the need to take energetic action to strengthen national evaluation at the country level. The focus over the next biennium would be the improvement of the quality of evaluations commissioned by country offices, and of evaluation support services provided by regional offices. While doing so, UNICEF would endeavour to strengthen evaluation capacities of national partners. Regional offices had given a higher priority to evaluation within their biennial office management plans. In addition, a self-evaluation had been undertaken by the Evaluation Office, using as benchmarks the new Norms and Standards for Evaluation in the United Nations System. An independent external panel would conduct a peer review of the evaluation function, the results of which would be included in the progress report on the evaluation function in UNICEF, to be submitted to the Executive Board at the annual session of 2006.

263. One delegation suggested that a standard format be created, allowing comparison in future reports, and the Director took note of the suggestion.

Eastern and Southern Africa

264. The Regional Director introduced the regional report (E/ICEF/2005/P/L.23). Speakers commended the fact that the MTRs addressed salient areas of UNICEF support, progress made, lessons learned and constraints, and recommendations for adjustments to the country programmes. A few speakers commended the broad participation of partners, including bilateral donors, in the MTRs. Others noted the growing problems of HIV/AIDS, orphans and

vulnerable children (OVC) and the need for UNICEF to scale up its role in advocacy for child rights, and put less emphasis on project implementation and service delivery. The Regional Director reiterated the resolve of UNICEF to scale up responses to HIV/AIDS prevention, prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT), paediatric AIDS, protection of OVC and to increase cross-agency unified approaches as in "three ones" joint action plans.

265. On the **Eritrea MTR,** one speaker, also on behalf of another delegation, expressed her country's satisfaction with the overall process made, but said that UNICEF, with other United Nations agencies, should put more efforts into capacity-building. She called for a reassessment of assistance modalities and renewed focus of support on emergency assistance to displaced people and other groups at risk of hunger and malnutrition as well as primary education for displaced children. The Regional Director reaffirmed that priority was being given to emergency intervention and capacity-building. Another speaker suggested that the specific results to be achieved in health, nutrition and education be included in the draft CPD.

266. Concerning the **MTR of the Malawi country programme,** two delegations jointly commended the quality of the MTR summary and UNICEF cooperation with both national and international partners, but said that the section on education lacked information on gender parity issues. The plight of girls in the higher levels of primary schools, as well as completion and retention rates of boys and girls, should be highlighted. The child rights protection project could benefit from harmonization and streamlining with national programmes and strategies. The Regional Director explained that Malawi had one national OVC plan, in which UNICEF had participated. The plan obtained up to 60 per cent of its funds from the PRSP mechanism and the remaining 40 per cent through global funds, which clearly showed that the national plan for orphans in Malawi was already embedded in its national priorities, in line with the new aid modality for the country.

267. Regarding the **MTR of the Mozambique country programme,** two speakers rated the performance of UNICEF as very satisfactory, but expressed concern about the multiplicity of United Nations agencies and overlapping of activities. Although some progress had been made in aid effectiveness, some United Nations agencies could be more active in ensuring adherence to the principles of harmonization and simplification. They encouraged UNICEF to strengthen its advocacy work while limiting direct project implementation to the local level. They also acknowledged the role of UNICEF within the United Nations family to increase cooperation in the fight against HIV/AIDS. The Regional Director endorsed the importance of aid effectiveness and expressed the strong support of UNICEF for the Scanteam report (commissioned by Norway), which clearly highlighted all the issues in connection with the United Nations system's participation in the new aid modalities in Mozambique. Another speaker welcomed the fact that the MTR had been conducted with the participation of bilateral donors and welcomed this development for future replication.

268. On the **Zambia MTR,** two speakers jointly supported the MTR recommendation that UNICEF strengthen its advocacy role, rather than focus on service delivery. The MTR results in the health and education sectors referred only to UNICEF interventions without linkages to

national initiatives, giving a somewhat skewed picture of the overall impact of the programme. Compared to the sectoral programmes in health and education, the UNICEF contributions were very limited and mostly project-based. The MTR summary did not fully reflect the awkward situation of the UNICEF embargo on cash advances, especially in the education sector. UNICEF had signed a memorandum of understanding and took part in the monitoring of the overall sector programme, but did not contribute to the pooled sector funding. In response, the Regional Director affirmed the full endorsement of UNICEF for the Scanteam report, which had suggested that perhaps the United Nations system should avoid getting into pooled funding. UNICEF would continue to provide technical assistance support and participate in the Zambian Joint Assessment Strategy that was supported by all the bilateral agencies, the Government and the United Nations system.

269. On the **South Africa MTR,** a speaker asked about the figure of 174 per cent of planned other resources allocations for HIV/AIDS. Another delegate expressed appreciation for the substantial engagement of UNICEF in the fight against HIV/AIDS in the country.

270. Regarding the **Lesotho MTR,** a delegation said that that its embassy had given positive feedback on the MTR, finding it balanced and with well-set priorities. However, the report made no mention of programme implementation in the remote areas of the country, and this omission should be rectified. The Regional Director explained that UNICEF was working in 6 of the country's 11 districts and the country programme was largely directed at subnational interventions.

271. The representative of **Ethiopia,** speaking about the MTR of that country programme, concurred with the report, particularly with respect to results achieved, lessons learned and the need for adjustments. He commended the flexibility of UNICEF in agreeing to establish a new partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. He highlighted the importance of the MTR recommendations that emphasized the need for UNICEF to ensure its technical assistance in conformity with the country's capacity-building strategy. He also drew attention to an agreement regarding the need for a quarterly meeting between UNICEF and the Government to review allocation of secured other resources. This aimed to minimize the inefficiencies arising from pre-allocation of other resources to subnational authorities.

West and Central Africa

272. The Regional Director introduced the regional report (E/ICEF/2005/P/L.24.)

273. On the **Togo MTR**, a delegation shared the concerns of its embassy on weak coordination among the various partners in the national HIV/AIDS programme. The Regional Director shared this concern, and confirmed the commitment of UNICEF to strengthening coordination in the coming months.

274. Concerning the **MTR of the Gabon programme,** a delegation expressed satisfaction that child trafficking was now considered a criminal offence in Gabon, and supported the

MTR suggestion that the Government consider the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

275. Commenting on the **MTR of Nigeria,** a speaker expressed appreciation for UNICEF support to policy development, capacity-building and increased service delivery, and encouraged UNICEF to maintain its rights-based approach, since this was key to long-term child protection and development. The speaker asked how UNICEF would direct training on gender mainstreaming for partner organizations, as indicated in the report. The speaker also said that the report did not contain any financial information on HIV/AIDS, and enquired about the UNICEF AIDS strategy for the next few years, in view of the level of prevalence, the number of AIDS-related orphans and the risks resulting from migration and trafficking. The Regional Director said that the President was very committed to a broad child survival approach, and the United Nations was supporting the Government's efforts. UNICEF was strongly committed to the fight against HIV/AIDS, for example through a prevention programme for young people during their compulsory service after finishing secondary school and prior to attending university.

Americas and the Caribbean

276. Introducing the regional report (E/ICEF/2005/P/L.25), the Regional Director emphasized the need to incorporate the Millennium Development Goals into programme cycles and to collect disaggregated data for the attainment of the Goals.

277. On the MTR of the **Brazil country programme**, a delegation commended the remarkably self-critical, candid and sincere nature of the Brazilian MTR. Many of the problems mentioned in the MTR seemed to have been largely overcome, and resources were being raised mainly through activities within the country, a rare case in other recipient countries. Another speaker said that policy dialogue was crucial, as the ultimate accountability should lie with national Governments, and asked if other United Nations agencies had participated in this national dialogue. The Regional Director responded that the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean document on the Millennium Development Goals presented a point of departure for policy dialogue with other United Nations agencies. At the country level, there was increased programming with other United Nations organizations, particularly in the area of HIV/AIDS, but more needed to be done at the municipal and local levels. The regional management team meeting held in Rome and Geneva earlier this year included meetings with ILO, UNAIDS, UNHCR, WFP and WHO. The Regional Director suggested that time be allocated during future Executive Board sessions for providing a broader look at regional developments, rather than at individual MTRs only.

East Asia aad the Pacific

278. The Regional Director introduced the regional report (E/ICEF/2005/P/L.26), which summarized the MTRs of the country programmes for Thailand and Mongolia, and significant

evaluations undertaken in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia and Viet Nam. Both MTRs recommended a strengthened focus on disparity reduction. In the case of Mongolia, UNICEF support to key social sectors would be elevated from the project to programme level. The results of the three evaluations provided additional information on the impact of decentralization and its effect in promoting equity and reducing disparities across the region.

South Asia

279. The Regional Director introduced the regional report (E/ICEF/2005/P/L.27).

280. On the **Sri Lanka MTR,** some delegates commended the work of UNICEF with vulnerable populations, particularly child soldiers, and on landmine awareness in the conflict-affected areas. As the United Nations focal point for education, water and sanitation and child protection, UNICEF was well placed to address the emerging challenges and opportunities in Sri Lanka. A speaker called on UNICEF to strengthen its advocacy role at the national level to influence policy makers and to ensure ownership and coordination in the area of psychosocial interventions for children. Another delegate asked how UNICEF cooperated with and strengthened the capacity of the National Child Protection Authority, especially in the combat against violence against children and women and sexual abuse of children. Several speakers asked about the impact of the tsunami and the vast influx of new funds on the UNICEF programmes. A delegation asked whether new areas of work had been included in the national plan of action for children of Sri Lanka (2004-2008), considering the large amount of funds received for the tsunami response. Another speaker was satisfied with the UNICEF leadership role in the tsunami rehabilitation efforts but was concerned about UNICEF-supported water and sanitation projects, especially in the areas where transitional housing had just been built.

281. The representative of **Bangladesh** praised the evaluation of his country's rural hygiene, sanitation and water supply project, describing the steady focus of UNICEF on fresh water supply, sanitation and hygiene facilities. He expressed his Government's appreciation to the Department for International Development (United Kingdom) (DFID) for its contribution to the project. However, wide exposure to arsenic had reduced the near universal coverage of safe drinking water in 1993 to 72 per cent, affecting or threatening 35 million people. UNICEF continued its efforts to improve access to safe drinking water, but more efforts and resources were needed to fight the arsenic contamination. Another speaker said that UNICEF should develop an exit strategy that would promote the sustainable upkeep of the programme by the Government. It was also suggested that the clear write-up of this project review serve as a model for reporting on other evaluations. Speaking on the health and injury survey in Bangladesh, a delegation noted the well-documented evaluation of this very extensive survey with its important findings for developing countries facing similar problems. The same delegate also commended the survey process and its recommendations for strategy and programme design.

282. Speaking on the evaluation of the biannual preschool de-worming programme in **Nepal**, a delegation considered it a model of a very successful process of collaboration between the Government, UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO, the Australian Agency for International Development and USAID. He expressed his Government's satisfaction at this successful joint effort.

283. The Regional Director replied that the findings of the evaluations would be disseminated widely as best practices, and the comments would be shared with the relevant country offices for follow-up.

Central and Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic States

284. The report (E/ICEF/2005/P/L.28) was introduced by the Regional Director.

285. A speaker, also on behalf of another delegation, highlighted the good work of UNICEF in the region, especially in the areas of maternal and child health, meeting the social needs of children and childhood disabilities. He emphasized the need for concrete measures to advocate for a healthy lifestyle among young people, which were important in dealing with the spread of HIV/AIDS. He called on UNICEF to continue taking account of government priorities while implementing country programmes.

286. Another speaker welcomed the joint study on children and disabilities, which would put forward strategies for the promotion, inclusion and participation of children with disabilities. She asked for additional information on how the five-point strategy would be effectively integrated in the country programmes of the region.

Middle East and North Africa

287. Prior to introducing the report (E/ICEF/2005/P/L.29), the Regional Director discussed significant developments in the region since the Board's last meeting in June 2005: the withdrawal of Israeli Defence Forces from Gaza, although recent military action in Gaza indicated serious remaining difficulties ahead; the formation of the Government of National Unity in Sudan, which was an "extremely hopeful sign"; and the continuing violence in Iraq, which was a tragedy for the children of Iraq, among others.

288. Commenting on his country's MTR, the representative of **Algeria** expressed the view that the programme was "too ambitious", and the needs of the country too great to be met by the meagre resources available, especially in view of the devastating earthquake in 2003. The country had made good progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, for example through the expansion of a pre-school programme nationwide. The speaker sought a clear definition of the term "refugees". The Regional Director responded that UNICEF had completed recently an evaluation on the emergency responses to the earthquakes in Algeria, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Morocco, the results of which would be presented to the

Board in 2006. Regarding a definition of "refugees", he said that UNICEF was in the process of developing a more comprehensive approach to the Saharawi population, as a subregional issue.

289. On the **Sudan MTR**, one speaker said that UNICEF had made measurable gains in important areas such as in education and protection, and had worked well with other United Nations agencies and NGOs, in particular with WHO on various vaccination campaigns. The child-friendly community initiative had been a valuable contribution. The joint UNICEF/DFID evaluation on the UNICEF emergency intervention in Darfur had shown the weakness of UNICEF in emergency sectoral coordination. However, she commended the UNICEF contribution to the return, repatriation and reintegration of IDPs and refugees, while noting that UNICEF should consider providing assistance to those IDPs who chose not to return at this time. Another speaker asked about the UNICEF programme on the demobilization, disarmament and reintegration of child soldiers.

290. Referring to the **MTR of the Egypt country programme**, a delegation commended UNICEF efforts in improving the situation of women and children but asked about the HIV/AIDS situation. The delegation's embassy in Egypt was concerned about the lack of an institutionalized surveillance system with regard to HIV/AIDS and the consequent absence of reliable data. The Regional Director shared the same sense of frustration at the absence of reliable data on HIV/AIDS in Egypt, particularly with regard to vulnerable youth, for whom UNICEF had not yet been able to provide an active national programme. UNICEF viewed Egypt as one country where greater efforts were needed to establish an HIV/AIDS programme.

291. The representative of the **Syrian Arab Republic**, speaking on his country's MTR, expressed appreciation for the tireless efforts of UNICEF, in particular, in health and education, noting that the country could not do the work alone.

292. The delegation of **Tunisia** stated that a number of legislative changes had taken place in his country, which were not reflected in the MTR report.

D. Proposals for UNICEF programme cooperation

Draft country programme documents

293. In his introductory remarks, the Director, Programme Division, said that the programme cycles of the seven draft CPDs were aligned with the respective government cycles of the concerned countries, and also reflected a harmonization of cycles among the members of the respective United Nations country teams, in particular the funds and programmes. The CPDs were also aligned with the new MTSP and, through it, with the Millennium Development Goals. There was a notable range among the seven countries in terms of the key indicator of the under-five mortality rate, ranging from 35 deaths of children under five per 1,000 live births for Cape Verde to 257 in Afghanistan. Even so, in each

country there was a particular set of challenges and opportunities related to meeting or exceeding the targets for the Goals and accelerating sustainable progress in realizing the rights of children. Although each CPD was discreet in its own right, there were some similarities worth noting, including a focus on reduction of child poverty and inequalities among children, for example with respect to disadvantaged geographic regions and populations, including specific ethnic groups.

Eastern and Southern Africa

294. The Executive Board had before it the draft CPD for **Swaziland** (E/ICEF/2005/P/L.30 and Corr.1), which was introduced by the Regional Director.

295. A speaker welcomed the focus of the CPD on the Millennium Development Goals and UNICEF efforts to influence the Government to prioritize social sectors. However, there was no mention of a direct linkage to the PRSP process. He recognized the active role of UNICEF in the ongoing efforts to strengthen collaboration with the United Nations system. Particular reference was made to the effective contributions of the Southern African Regional Directors Team (RDT) in supporting coordination measures aimed at a reduction of transaction costs and undue demands placed on national counterparts. The UNICEF contribution towards harmonization was not well reflected in the document. The speaker also welcomed the UNICEF focus on HIV and AIDS and called for reference to the conclusions of the Global Task Team in the revised CPD. The Regional Director explained that the RDT had worked actively with the United Nations country team on the division of responsibilities in the United Nations response plan to the national plan on HI/AIDS. The CPD was fully linked to the PRSP and was largely financed through the PRSP mechanism. The OVC agenda and protection programmes for children in particular were also part of this mechanism.

296. Another speaker said that substantial improvements had taken place in Swaziland in the past five years, partly due to UNICEF-supported programmes such as neighbourhood care points, which had been scaled up. Much remained to be done to address the continuing high HIV prevalence rate and the growing number of OVC. Noting that UNICEF was often the lead organization in the water and sanitation sector, the speaker urged UNICEF to continue to play this role and to ensure that the growing number of households in the country, currently unable to access safe water, were served.

West and Central Africa

297. The Executive Board had before it the three draft CPDs for Cape Verde, Chad and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (E/ICEF/2005/P/L.31 - E/ICEF/2005/P/L.33), which were introduced by the Regional Director.

298. The Regional Director highlighted the significance of the draft **Cape Verde common country programme document (CCPD)**, which had been prepared in the wider context of a joint office model established with UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP. He thanked the

Government of Cape Verde for its leadership and support of these initiatives in the context of United Nations reform.

299. Delegations stated that the CCPD was a milestone and a positive step in the right direction for the United Nations and would, it was hoped, reduce transaction costs for the Government. One delegate asked to be informed in due course on lessons learned in terms of cost-effectiveness, management and human resources issues. Another speaker noted the lack of standardized logical frameworks, normally a valuable tool for evaluation purposes. Addressing procedural issues, one speaker stated that discussion and approval of the CCPD were being done in separate Executive Boards sessions of the agencies involved, and suggested that a way be found to consider such submissions in a joint session of the Boards. The Regional Director thanked delegations for their positive comments on the innovation of the CCPD. In response to the concerns on logical frameworks, he said that they had been discussed with both the United Nations country team and UNICEF during his recent visit and were being prepared.

300. On the draft CPD for **Chad,** one speaker shared the positive feedback received regarding the good coordination within the United Nations country team. The speaker also noted that the overall level of development was declining, especially for children, and that the document did not adequately stress the responsibility of all partners in addressing the challenges of achieving sustainable development. The Regional Director said that UNICEF had similar concerns on the development indicators, particularly the worsening nutritional situation in the south.

301. Concerning the draft CPD for the **Democratic Republic of the Congo,** many delegations spoke about the challenges of moving the country towards peace and stability. Speakers expressed appreciation of UNICEF for developing a country programme that stressed the importance of increasing broad support and for ensuring that such support had an immediate effect on the ground. There was an appreciation of the greater upstream policy dialogue as a way to prepare national policies for long-term development. The UNDAF process should be an opportunity for UNICEF to strengthen its consultation and coordination with a broader group of partners. More than one delegation mentioned the important role played by the resident coordinator system in the country.

302. Clarification was sought on the coordination between the UNICEF country programme and the Consolidated Humanitarian Action Plan (CHAP) at the level of activities. The same delegation asked if UNICEF would participate in pooled funding for the CHAP with other United Nations agencies. Concerning the increase in the budget for the 2006-2007 cycle, a speakers asked about the capacity of UNICEF to increase its programme levels in a short timeframe, especially in the health and education sectors. It was suggested that UNICEF strategize about how to use NGOs more effectively in service delivery in view of the continuing weak capacity of national institutions to deliver services to children, and the continued use of health campaigns over primary health care.

303. The Regional Director said that the country had the first and largest integrated United Nations mission, which provided a good framework for cooperation between all agencies. UNICEF was committed to the pooled funding scheme, but to date in the country there had been limited experiences with pooled funding among United Nations agencies. He agreed on the need to emphasize a campaign approach, which had proved very useful and effective in the country, and the need for primary health care.

Americas and the Caribbean

304. The Regional Director introduced the draft CPD for **Guyana** (E/ICEF/2005/P/L.34). The representative of Guyana said that her country, despite its socio-economic status, had consistently pursued policies for children's access to education, health care and social protection and increased expenditures on education and health. Guyana had presented an initial report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child in January 2003, highlighting successes and future activities and focus. She reiterated the value of the partnership with UNICEF and said that the country programme would contribute to the attainment of the Government's goals for children. She stressed the importance of transparency to ensure national ownership and sound implementation.

East Asia and the Pacific

305. The Regional Director presented the draft CPD for **Indonesia** (E/ICEF/2005/P/L.35), saying that the programme was consistent with Indonesia's development and regional priorities and also responded to one of the most significant humanitarian relief challenges of this century.

306. Regarding the tsunami and Nias disaster, delegations expressed concern at the slow progress of school reconstruction and rehabilitation in Aceh and North Sumatra. The representative of Indonesia expressed appreciation to UNICEF for its assistance in reconstructing schools with better facilities, and for its critical role in the areas of health and nutrition, water and sanitation, education, fighting HIV/AIDS and child protection, and for the medical supplies, clean water and teacher training provided in Aceh. The country was still facing challenges, with 67,000 people living in emergency shelters built on sand. "Building back better" would require consultative efforts of the affected countries and the donor community. The Regional Director said that its adequate human and other resources had allowed UNICEF to respond to the tsunami crisis without compromising the country programme. In fact, the simultaneous implementation had contributed to a cross-fertilization of ideas, such as the excellent work for malaria control implemented in the initial tsunami response in Aceh, in partnership with USAID.

307. Asked about the UNICEF response to the recent outbreak of polio, the Regional Director said that UNICEF had been working hard to predict the actual spread of the virus and had supported national immunization campaigns as a preventive measure in neighbouring countries such as the Philippines and Malaysia. In Indonesia, UNICEF was working with

WHO to accelerate special immunization campaigns. The representative of Indonesia said that the UNICEF- and WHO-supported national immunization campaigns had reached almost 24 million children throughout the country. In addition, the Government had a six-step prevention programme to both help prevent and contain any possible outbreak of avian flu.

308. To questions about the extent of partnerships with UNAIDS and UNFPA on HIV/AIDS, the Regional Director said there was close collaboration at both the country and regional levels. One example was the upcoming meeting of regional directors of UNAIDS cosponsoring agencies to discuss the assessment of existing competencies to serve as a framework to support the acceleration of preventive measures.

309. On education, a speaker expressed support for UNICEF efforts to improve the quality of education and suggested further cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in achieving universal primary education. Another delegation said it was unaware of the finalization of the evaluation results of the "Creating Learning Communities for Children" programme and considered it premature for UNICEF to mainstream it into the education programme.

310. Regarding child protection, a speaker said that more efforts were needed in preventing child labour, particularly with female domestic workers. There should also be greater emphasis on maternal mortality, including the prevention of illegal abortions among unwed teenagers and provision of reproductive health services to all women.

South Asia

311. The Executive Board had before it the draft CPD for the **Islamic Republic of Afghanistan** (E/ICEF/2005/P/L.36), which was introduced by the Regional Director. Some speakers commended the collaborative efforts during the development of the draft CPD, which was aligned with national plans and structures. They also referred to the important role played by UNICEF in preparing the CCA/UNDAF.

312. The representative of the **Islamic Republic of Afghanistan** welcomed the inclusion of a national emergency preparedness plan and a monitoring and evaluation mechanism in the CPD. He underlined the importance of national capacity-building to fulfil the rights of children and women, particularly in the areas of policy formulation, service delivery and the establishment of protection systems and institutions. He called for sufficient other resources to meet the country programme goals.

313. A delegation requested further information on basic education, gender equality and the role of UNICEF in the education sector. Another speaker said that the peace dividend had not reached children, women and other vulnerable groups such as refugees and internally displaced persons, who were especially affected by natural disasters, and asked how UNICEF would contribute to the winterization measures of the Government. Other questions were asked about several issues: (a) possible activities in the provinces with highly problematic

security, such as in the south and southeast of the country; (b) examples of success stories on the reintegration of child soldiers; (c) strategies to promote school attendance for children with disabilities; and (d) the lack of information in the CPD on needle sharing or reliance on injectable vitamins and drugs for HIV/AIDS prevention.

314. The Regional Director said that although it was not currently possible to be present in some parts of the country, UNICEF would work in areas where it could have a nationwide impact. She hoped that the country would manage the financial challenges that accompanied transition situations. On the other issues raised, the Regional Director would undertake bilateral meetings and convey the questions to the country office for further clarification.

315. See annex, decision 2005/11, for the decision adopted by the Executive Board on the draft CPDs.

Extension of cooperation with Rotary International for polio eradication and extension of the Vaccine Independence Initiative

316. The Executive Director introduced the report (E/ICEF/2005/P/L.37) in which the Board was requested to approve a five-year extension of the cooperation with the Polio Plus Programme of Rotary International, and the extension of the Vaccine Independence Initiative for the period 2006-2010. In her introductory remarks, the Executive Director expressed appreciation for the tireless support of Rotary, both to fund UNICEF-supported programmes and to advocate for the political commitment of donor Governments and affected countries. The representative of Rotary International expressed appreciation for the continued support of UNICEF to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. He also indicated Rotary's availability to support other initiatives aimed at achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Many delegations from both donor and programme countries expressed continued support to the global fight against polio in this crucial, final phase of the initiative.

317. See annex, decision 2005/12, for the decision adopted by the Executive Board.

Recommendation for funds to cover overexpenditures due to write-offs, refunds, cancellations, revaluations and other charges for completed projects financed by other resources

318. The recommendation (E/ICEF/2005/P/L.38) was introduced by the Comptroller and approved without comment (see annex, decision 2005/13).

E. Innocenti Research Centre: progress report and proposed activities for 2006-2008

319. The Executive Board had before it the Progress report and proposed activities of the Innocenti Research Centre (IRC) for 2006-2008 (E/ICEF/2005/13), which was presented by the Director of the Centre.

320. Interventions were made by a range of delegations from programme and donor countries and the Standing Group of National Committees for UNICEF. In expressing strong support for the Centre, delegations affirmed the value and relevance of its research to the promotion of children's rights and of the Millennium Development Goals and Declaration, including through the work of UNICEF and other agencies at the country level and through the MTSP 2006-2009. The Government of Italy confirmed the extension of its agreement with UNICEF for the work of the IRC for 2006-2008 and expressed readiness to develop an agreement to take into account new principles of cooperation.

321. Delegations encouraged the Centre to devote more attention to several areas: child protection issues, including children affected by armed conflict, violence, trafficking and harmful traditional practices; gender dimensions; the situation of young people; and other topics relevant to the Millennium Development Goals. It was suggested that children themselves be involved in research. Other delegations highlighted the importance of expanding research in developing countries; strengthening the Centre's linkages within UNICEF and with other United Nations agencies; maintaining IRC research contributions to advocacy in industrialized countries; and effectively disseminating research materials while strengthening the Centre's role as a knowledge broker. Several delegations called for additional funding for the Centre, including from regular resources. In response, the secretariat affirmed the organization's continued support for the work of the IRC and indicated steps being taken to strengthen its funding base. The Board authorized a three-year extension of the Centre's programme for the period 2006-2008. (See annex, decision 2005/14, for the full text of the decision.).

F. UNICEF follow-up to recent consultations of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board

322. The report (E/ICEF/2005/12) was introduced by the Chief of the HIV/AIDS section of Programme Division. This was followed by a statement by the Director of the Country and Regional Support Department at UNAIDS, who discussed the Global Task Team (GTT) recommendations and the Division of Labour matrix presented in the report. He underlined the joint action undertaken by the UNAIDS family, in line with United Nations reform, to support a rapid scale-up of the AIDS response.

323. Delegations expressed support for the GTT recommendations, the Division of Labour matrix, and all related decisions of the seventeenth (June 2005) meeting of the Programme Coordinating Board (PCB). Speakers requested UNICEF to develop appropriate action plans within the specified time frames, in collaboration with the UNAIDS secretariat and the cosponsors, and to maintain the momentum created by the GTT. UNICEF was encouraged to work with the UNAIDS secretariat to intensify HIV prevention by developing an action plan based on the UNAIDS Policy Position Paper, "Intensifying HIV Prevention".

324. Speakers requested UNICEF, together with UNAIDS and other relevant development partners, to report on progress in implementing the GTT recommendations at the joint meeting of the Executive Boards of the UNDP/UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP, in January 2006, and at a special session to take place during the June 2006 meeting of the PCB. (See annex, decision 2005/19, for the full text of the decision of the Board on UNICEF follow-up to the recommendations of the GTT on improving AIDS coordination).

G. Additional support budget allocation for 2005 for increased security costs

325. The Executive Board had before it the proposed supplementary appropriation for the biennium 2004-2005 (E/ICEF/2005/AB/L.7), which was introduced by the Comptroller, and a note from the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (E/ICEF/2005/AB/L.8). The proposal was adopted without comment. (See annex, decision 2005/15, for the text of the Board's decision).

326. After the decision had been adopted, a delegation later made a point of clarification on the appropriation. It was the delegation's understanding that the decision to approve the $3 million complied with the recommendation of the Advisory Committee, and therefore any unused funding allocated for safety and security purposes would be segregated by UNICEF and carried over to the next biennium for future security-related requirements. The Comptroller clarified that the appropriation which had been approved would lapse on 31 December 2005 and there was no mechanism to carry the funds into the next biennium. The security requirements for 2006-2007 would be included in the support budget that would be submitted to the Executive Board at the first regular session of 2006. After further discussion, the secretariat said it would provide information about any unspent funds from the appropriation to the Board at the first regular session in January 2006.

H. Advance support budget allocation for January 2006

327. The Executive Board had before it the proposed interim support budget allocation for an interim spending authority for January 2006 (E/ICEF/2005/AB/L.3) pending the Board's approval of the biennium support budget for 2006-2007, which was introduced by the Comptroller. The recommendation was adopted without comment. (See annex, decision 2005/16, for the text of the Board's decision.)

I. PSD financial report and statements for the year ended 31 December 2004

328. The Director a.i. of PSD presented the report and statements (E/ICEF/2005/AB/L.5). One delegation commended UNICEF and the National Committees for UNICEF for the record results. Speakers expressed satisfaction over the increase in gross proceeds from sales of cards and products and asked if this was due mainly to growth in sales volume or price increases. PSD was asked to provide the figure for the actual sales volume in 2004 and to include sales and fund-raising trends in future financial reports. The Director a.i. responded that the increase in gross proceeds from sales was due to a combination of sales volume

growth in both cards and gifts as well as higher prices. He said that the 2004 sales volume was 111 million cards sold and affirmed that the sales trends would be included in future reports.

329. The National Committees and PSD were also commended on the strong increase in private sector fund-raising income and were asked to provide more information on the yield of investment funds. The Director a.i. said that such information would be included in future reports. Asked why the 2004 financial report reflected provisional results only, the Director a.i. replied that the results were based on provisional Revenue and Expenditure Reports (RERs) of National Committees and that next year's financial report would include adjusted 2004 results based on the final RERs.

330. The Executive Board took note of the report.

J. Interim financial statement for the year ended 31 December 2004, the first year of the biennium

331. The report (E/ICEF/2005/AB/L.4) was introduced by the Comptroller and noted by the Executive Board without comment.

K. Report to the United Nations Board of Auditors and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

332. Deputy Executive Director Mr. Toshiyuki Niwa introduced the report (E/ICEF/2005/AB/L.6), reaffirming the importance UNICEF attaches to accountability and oversight. He explained that audit recommendations are early warning signs of potential risks, which management must access and act upon. He stated that UNICEF continues to pursue audit recommendations in a determined manner.

333. He further explained that the document before the Executive Board provides information on the status of implementation of the external audit recommendations made in respect of the biennium 2002-2003. These recommendations were transmitted to UNICEF in August 2004, and the report presents the status as at 31 March 2005.

334. Of the 56 recommendations, 25 (46 per cent) were fully implemented and 27 (48 per cent) were in the process of being implemented. This represents an improvement over the previous biennium. The four recommendations yet to be implemented are under ongoing discussions with the auditors or require a coordinated response with other organizations. The Deputy Executive Director ended his remarks by stating that UNICEF welcomes open and frank discussion on the findings and recommendations and he assured the Executive Board of continuing efforts to monitor and improvement implementation.

335. Several speakers commented, expressing general support for the progress made to date while noting that further improvements were needed. Regarding recommendation 173, the

point was made that deviation from United Nations staff rules should be avoided. In response, the Deputy Executive Director pointed out that the Board of Auditors report made reference to the practices followed by UNICEF, UNDP and WFP. This was an issue that needed resolution at the inter-agency level.

L. Programme of work for Executive Board sessions in 2006

336. The programme of work (E/ICEF/2005/14) was introduced by the Secretary of the Executive Board and adopted without comment (see annex, decision 2005/17).

M. Report on field visit to Morocco

337. The Executive Board had before it a report of the field visit by the Bureau to Morocco from 18 to 25 June (E/ICEF/2005/CRP.11), which was introduced by the President. He said that the trip had been extremely useful to the participants and expressed appreciation to the staff of the UNICEF office in Morocco and the Government. The report was preceded by a short video on the visit. The Executive Board took note of the report.

N. Other matters

338. Deputy Executive Director Ms. Rima Salah reported on the United Nations Secretary-General's **study on violence against children**. The study, which covers physical, sexual and psychological violence against children, is a joint initiative directly supported by the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights, UNICEF and WHO. In March 2004, Mr. Paolo Sérgio Pinheiro, the independent expert appointed by the Secretary-General to conduct the study, circulated a questionnaire to Governments, more than 120 of which responded. In addition, nine regional and three sub-regional consultations were conducted, along with national-level consultations and field visits. A call for public submissions also generated wide response. Two main findings to date have been the need for systematic and quality data as well as capacity-building.

339. The study has generated strong participation from all key actors, including NGOs, civil society, academic institutions and especially children, who have actively participated in regional and national consultations and other events. In the East Asia and Pacific region, for example, children called for better training of teachers to end violence. Examples of follow-up to the consultations include the first-ever national campaign to combat violence against children launched in China and a child help line launched by the First Lady of Egypt, which received 15,000 calls from children in the first 12 days.

340. On the issue of draft decisions considered during Board sessions, several delegations expressed a need for **informal consultations** to take place at future Board sessions, to allow all delegations and regional groups ample time to discuss draft decisions. The secretariat agreed to include time for informal consultations on the agenda of the next session.

O. Closing of the session

341. The Executive Director thanked the delegates and those present for a productive session, highlighted several initiatives in the priority areas of UNICEF that had been discussed and expressed satisfaction with the fact that UNICEF was helping to make the Millennium Development Goals "an everyday reality".

342. The President also thanked those present for their strong participation, especially in the review and adoption of the MTSP 2006-2009, and noted the progress UNICEF has made in strengthening partnerships with other United Nations agencies and various organizations in key areas that include HIV/AIDS; polio and other vaccines; United Nations reform; and the sharing of knowledge.

Annex

Decisions adopted by the Executive Board in 2005

2005/1. Annual report to the Economic and Social Council

The Executive Board

Takes note of the "Report of the Executive Director: Annual report to the Economic and Social Council" (E/ICEF/2005/3), and *requests* the secretariat to transmit it, along with a summary of the comments made during the discussion, to the Economic and Social Council for consideration at its substantive session of 2005.

First regular session
17 January 2005

2005/2. Private Sector Division work plan and proposed budget for 2005

A. Private Sector Division budgeted expenditures for the 2005 season

The Executive Board

1. *Approves* for the fiscal year 1 January to 31 December 2005 budgeted expenditures of $96.9 million as detailed below and summarized in column II of table 7 to document E/ICEF/2005/AB/L.1:

	(In millions of United States dollars)
Commissions – field offices	1.2
Cost of goods delivered	34.3
Marketing expenditures	25.2
Support services expenditures	19.1
Investment funds	17.1
Total expenditures, consolidated	**96.9**

2. *Authorizes* the Executive Director:

(a) To incur expenditures as summarized in column II of table 7 to document E/ICEF/2005/AB/L.1 and to increase expenditures up to the level indicated in column III of the same table should the apparent proceeds from card and gift sales and/or fund-raising increase to the levels indicated in column III, and accordingly, to reduce expenditures below the level indicated in column II to the extent necessary, should the net proceeds decrease;

(b) To redeploy resources between the various budget lines (as detailed in paragraph 1 above) up to a maximum of 10 per cent of the amounts approved;

(b) To spend an additional amount between Executive Board sessions, when necessary, up to the amount caused by currency fluctuations, to implement the 2005 approved work plan.

B. Budgeted income for the 2005 season

The Executive Board

Notes that for the period 1 January to 31 December 2005, PSD net proceeds are budgeted at $403.0 million (regular resources) as shown in column II of table 7 to document E/ICEF/2005/AB/L.1.

C. Policy issues

The Executive Board

1. *Renews* investment funds with $17.1 million established for 2005;

2. *Authorizes* the Executive Director to incur expenditures in the 2005 fiscal period related to the cost of goods delivered (production/purchase of raw materials, cards and other products) for the 2006 fiscal year up to $35.0 million as indicated in the PSD medium-term plan (see table 6 of document E/ICEF/2005/AB/L.1).

D. Medium-term plan

The Executive Board

Approves the PSD medium-term plan as reflected in table 6 to document E/ICEF/2005/AB/L.1.

First regular session
18 January 2005

2005/3. Joint programming

The Executive Board,

1. *Recalls* General Assembly resolution 59/250 of 22 December 2004, on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, which contains the policy framework set by the General Assembly to continue strengthening the joint programming process;

2. *Reiterates* the need to maintain the institutional integrity and organizational mandate of each United Nations agency during the process of joint programming;

3. *Takes note* of the report on the assessment of the UNICEF experience of joint programming contained in document E/ICEF/2004/10;

4. *Welcomes* the efforts made to date by UNICEF in working with programme countries to maximize the impact of the particular expertise of UNICEF when strengthening joint programming, aimed at improving the coherence of the United Nations at field level, programming efficiency, avoiding duplication and reducing transaction costs for programme countries and thus to contribute to better overall results, and *encourages* the Executive Director to continue to work with Governments and other partners towards that end;

5. *Emphasizes* the importance that the Executive Board attaches to UNICEF using joint programming as a tool for supporting the implementation of national development plans, including Poverty Reduction Strategies where they exist, through a more concerted approach under the Common Country Assessment and United Nations Development Assistance Framework, towards achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration;

6. *Requests*, therefore, that the Executive Director, in cooperation with the other agencies of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) in implementing joint programming, ensure that joint programming, including joint programmes where appropriate, results in improved development impact, including where appropriate to:

(a) Further harmonize country programme preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation processes, and improve communication between United Nations agencies during the whole programme cycle;

(b) Effectively deliver programme goals and contribute to the reduction of transaction costs;

(c) Promote common monitoring and reporting processes to governing bodies and joint approaches to evaluations;

7. *Takes note* of the efforts of UNICEF in contributing to the continued development by UNDG of a common framework, to include a common reporting framework, for joint programmes aimed at improving the impact and efficiency of United Nations agencies' efforts, in partnership with and to support national Governments, including UNICEF efforts to identify circumstances under which joint programmes might be a useful tool and what improvements in development impact would be achieved via use of joint programmes;

8. *Emphasizes* the UNICEF mandate and its budgetary, financial reporting and evaluation responsibilities, including with respect to joint programmes;

9. *Requests* the Executive Director to report on UNICEF participation in joint programming and joint programmes in her annual report to the Executive Board at the annual session of 2005, and to submit to the Board for its consideration at the annual session of 2006 a comprehensive report on the implementation of joint programming as outlined in this decision and on the UNDG Joint Programming Guidelines, including information on experiences and an analysis of resources allocated to the three options of fund management for joint programmes, and the resulting benefit in development impact or efficiency gains.

First regular session
19 January 2005

2005/4. Draft country programme documents

The Executive Board

Approves the aggregate indicative budgets for the following country programmes of cooperation:

Region/country	*Period*	*Regular resources*	*Other resources*	*Document E/ICEF/2005/*
Eastern and Southern Africa				
Namibia	2006-2010	3 335 000	21 665 000	P/L.1 and Corr.1
Uganda	2006-2010	42 880 000	40 000 000	P/L.2
West and Central Africa				
Burkina Faso	2006-2010	33 745 000	40 500 000	P/L.3
Ghana	2006-2010	18 600 000	56 400 000	P/L.4
Liberia	2006	2 826 000	5 820 000	P/L.5
Americas and Caribbean				
Peru	2006-2010	4 500 000	18 700 000	P/L.6
East Asia and the Pacific				
Cambodia	2006-2010	23 550 000	68 970 000	P/L.7
China	2006-2010	61 035 000	40 000 000	P/L.8
Myanmar	2006-2010	41 130 000	65 000 000	P/L.9
Timor-Leste	2006-2007	2 044 000	13 000 000	P/L.10 and Corr.1
Viet Nam	2006-2010	20 000 000	63 800 000	P/L.11
South Asia				
Bangladesh	2006-2010	60 490 000	210 000 000	P/L.12
CEE, CIS and Baltic States				
Albania	2006-2010	3 375 000	12 000 000	P/L.13
Belarus	2006-2010	3 260 000	2 140 000	P/L.14 and Corr.1
Bulgaria	2006-2009	2 464 000	2 500 000	P/L.15
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Russian Federation	2006-2010	4 805 000		21 000 000		P/L.17
Turkey	2006-2010	5 045 000		25 000 000		P/L.18
Ukraine	2006-2010	4 775 000		7 520 000		P/L.19
Middle East and North Africa						
Palestinian children and women in Jordan, Lebanon, the Occupied Palestinian Territory and Syrian Arab Republic	2006-2007	4 000 000		24 240 000		P/L.20

Annual session
9 June 2005

2005/5. Additional regular resources for approved country programmes

The Executive Board

Approves a total of $80,397,731 in regular resources to fund the approved country programmes of 54 countries (shown in tables 1 and 2 below) for 2005 and for 2006, whose regular resources planning levels, based on the modified allocation system and estimated global levels of programmable regular resources, are higher than the balance of approved funds for these countries:

Table 1. Additional regular resources (RR) for 2005
(In United States dollars)

Region/country	*Document E/ICEF/*	*Programme duration*	*2005 RR Planning Level*	*2005 RR Balance*	*Additional 2005 RR to be approved*
			(A)	**(B)**	**(A-B)**
West and Central Africa					
Burkina Faso	2000/P/L.4/Add.1	2001-2005	6,749,000	2,759,165	3,989,835
Cape Verde	2004/P/L.5	2005	660,000	611,000	49,000
Chad	2000/P/L.5/Add.1	2001-2005	3,689,000	2,636,914	1,052,086
Democratic Rep. of the Congo	2002/P/L.26	2003-2005	21,929,000	14,597,211	7,331,789
Ghana	2000/P/L.6/Add.1	2001-2005	3,718,000	3,467,258	250,742
Liberia	2002/P/L.27	2003-2005	2,826,000	1,096,536	1,729,464
Eastern and Southern Africa					
Namibia	2001/P/L.6/Add.1	2002-2005	667,000	634,010	32,990
Rwanda[1]	2000/P/L.1/Add.1	2001-2006	4,499,000	3,834,098	664,902
Swaziland	2000/P/L.2/Add.1	2001-2005	751,000	599,574	151,426
Uganda	2000/P/L.3/Add.1	2001-2005	8,576,000	4,242,969	4,333,031
South Asia					
Afghanistan, Islamic Rep. of	2002/P/L.31	2003-2005	13,799,000	7,322,176	6,476,824
East Asia and the Pacific					
Cambodia	2000/P/L.9/Add.1	2001-2005	4,710,000	3,375,893	1,334,107
China	2000/P/L.10/Add.1	2001-2005	12,207,000	11,949,373	257,627
Indonesia	2000/P/L.11/Add.1	2001-2005	5,300,000	4,490,042	809,958

[1] [illegible] additional RR for [illegible] 2005 and 2006 ($664,902 and $4,499,000 respectively) and is therefore

Myanmar	2000/P/L.12/Add.1	2001-2005	8,226,000	6,497,360	1,728,640
Timor-Leste	2002/P/L.30	2003-2005	1,022,000	720,543	301,457
Middle East and North Africa					
Palestinian children and women in Jordan	2003/P/L.13	2004-2005	225,000	200,000	25,000
Palestinian children and women in Lebanon	2003/P/L.13	2004-2005	400,000	350,000	50,000
Occupied Palestinian Territory	2003/P/L.13	2004-2005	950,000	850,000	100,000
Palestinian children and women in the Syrian Arab Rep.	2003/P/L.13	2004-2005	225,000	200,000	25,000
Central and Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic States					
Belarus	2002/P/L.33	2003-2005	652,000	595,576	56,424
Russian Federation	2002/P/L.33	2003-2005	961,000	694,000	267,000
Turkey	2000/P/L.17/Add.1	2001-2005	1,009,000	846,000	163,000
Total			**103,750,000**	**72,569,699**	**31,180,301**

Table 2. Additional regular resources (RR) for 2006
(In United States dollars)

Region/country	*Document E/ICEF/*	*Programme duration*	*2006 RR Planning Level* (A)	*2006 RR Balance* (B)	*Additional 2006 RR to be approved* (A-B)
West and Central Africa					
Central African Republic	2001/P/L.10/Add.1	2002-2006	2,156,000	619,367	1,536,633
Equatorial Guinea	2001/P/L.11/Add.1	2002-2006	736,000	520,000	216,000
Gambia	2001/P/L.13/Add.1	2002-2006	971,000	330,165	640,835
Guinea	2001/P/L.14/Add.1	2002-2006	3,201,000	1,160,321	2,040,679
Guinea-Bissau[2]	2002/P/L.5/Add.1	2003-2007	1,495,000	1,354,000	1,636,000
Sao Tome and Principe	2001/P/L.16/Add.1	2002-2006	660,000	569,000	91,000
Senegal	2001/P/L.17/Add.1	2002-2006	3,009,000	733,269	2,275,731
Togo	2001/P/L.18/Add.1	2002-2006	2,063,000	1,233,664	829,336
Eastern and Southern Africa					
Eritrea	2001/P/L.1/Add.1	2002-2006	1,785,000	611,470	1,173,530
Ethiopia	2001/P/L.2/Add.1	2002-2006	21,772,000	10,867,569	10,904,431
Malawi	2001/P/L.4/Add.1	2002-2006	5,945,000	4,207,012	1,737,988
Rwanda	2000/P/L.1/Add.1	2001-2006	4,499,000	0	4,499,000
South Africa	2001/P/L.7/Add.1 and Corr.1	2002-2006	997,000	694,251	302,749
Tanzania, United Republic of	2001/P/L.8/Add.1	2002-2006	11,733,000	1,827,574	9,905,426
Zambia	2001/P/L.9/Add.1	2002-2006	4,686,000	2,835,422	1,850,578
Zimbabwe	2004/P/L.4	2005-2006	2,021,000	1,829,000	192,000

[2] Guinea Bissau has a programme cycle 2003-2007, for which an additional RR allocation of $1,495,000 in 2007 is included in this total. The required approval for RR in 2006 is $141,000. When added to the required amount for 2007 ($1,495,000) the total amount requested for approval is $1,636,000 as shown in the table.

South Asia					
Bhutan	2001/P/L.38/Add.1	2002-2006	966,000	877,775	88,225
Nepal	2001/P/L.39/Add.1	2002-2006	5,000,000	4,389,205	610,795
East Asia and the Pacific					
Lao People's Democratic Rep.	2001/P/L.35/Add.1	2002-2006	1,787,000	1,388,558	398,442
Mongolia	2001/P/L.36/Add.1	2002-2006	907,000	707,602	199,398
Thailand	2001/P/L.37/Add.1	2002-2006	1,000,000	956,000	44,000
Middle East and North Africa					
Egypt	2001/P/L.43/Add.1	2002-2006	2,639,000	397,329	2,241,671
Iraq	2001/P/L.71	2005-2006	2,014,000	1,858,000	156,000
Sudan	2001/P/L.46/Add.1	2002-2006	6,169,000	3,455,306	2,713,694
Yemen	2001/P/L.49/Add.1	2002-2006	4,651,000	3,962,213	688,787
Americas and the Caribbean					
Belize	2001/P/L.19/Add.1	2002-2006	612,000	594,176	17,824
Brazil	2001/P/L.20/Add.1	2002-2006	840,000	576,000	264,000
Cuba	2001/P/L.23/Add.1	2002-2006	632,000	581,000	51,000
Haiti	2001/P/L.27/Add.1	2002-2006	2,749,000	1,221,725	1,527,275
Jamaica	2001/P/L.29/Add.1	2002-2006	633,000	587,758	45,242
Panama	2001/P/L.32/Add.1	2002-2006	400,000	213,492	186,508
Paraguay	2001/P/L.33/Add.1	2002-2006	746,000	593,347	152,653
Total			**99,474,000**	**51,751,570**	**49,217,430**
Grand total for 2005 and 2006 (Table 1 + Table 2)			**203,224,000**	**124,321,269**	**80,397,731**

Annual session
9 June 2005

2005/6. Additional other resources for approved country programmes

The Executive Board

Approves the total of $371,031,000 in other resources for the approved country programmes for the 20 countries listed below, for the remaining periods of these programmes, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions:

Table. Proposed increases to other resources (OR) ceilings for approved country programmes
(In thousands of United States dollars)

Region/country	*Document E/ICEF/*	*Programme duration*	*Approved OR ceiling*	*Additional OR to be approved*	*Total OR ceiling*
			(A)	**(B)**	**(A+B)**
West and Central Africa					
Burkina Faso	2000/P/L.4	2001-2005	19 867	6 551	26 418
Cameroon	2002/P/L.3/Add.1	2003-2007	8 000	6 000	14 000
Côte d'Ivoire	2002/P/L.4/Add.1	2003-2007	8 000	15 000	23 000
Liberia	2002/P/L.27	2003-2005	11 700	2 280	13 980

Mauritania	2000/P/L.7/Add.11	2003-2008	12 000	3 000	15 000
Nigeria	2001/P/L.15/Add.1	2002-2007	72 000	116 400	188 400
Sierra Leone	2003/P/L.8/Rev.1	2004-2007	16 000	4 000	20 000
Togo	2001/P/L.18/Add.1	2002-2006	4 000	2 000	6 000
Eastern and Southern Africa					
Botswana	2002/P/L.1/Add.1	2003-2007	7 900	3 500	11 400
Comoros	2002/P/L.2/Add.1	2003-2007	1 500	1 000	2 500
Ethiopia	2001/P/L.2/Add.1	2002-2006	60 000	10 000	70 000
Malawi	2001/P/L.4/Add.1	2002-2006	52 200	21 000	73 200
Zimbabwe	2004/P/L.4	2005-2006	14 000	29 600	43 600
South Asia					
India	2002/P/L.12/Add.1	2003-2007	250 000	100 000	350 000
East Asia and the Pacific					
Timor-Leste	2002/P/L.30	2003-2005	9 000	8 000	17 000
Middle East and North Africa					
Egypt	2001/P/L.43/Add.1	2002-2006	25 000	27 500	52 500
Central and Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic States					
Moldova	2001/P/L.41/Add.1	2002-2006	7 500	2 500	10 000
Americas and the Caribbean					
Haiti	2001/P/L.27	2002-2006	17 500	11 500	29 000
Panama	2001/P/L.32/Add.1	2002-2006	2 250	600	2 850
Paraguay	2001/P/L.33/Add.1	2002-2006	3 025	600	3 625
Total increase				**371 031**	

Annual session
9 June 2005

2005/7. UNICEF/WHO Global Immunization Vision and Strategy

The Executive Board,

Having considered the report on the draft immunization strategy (E/ICEF/2005/9 and WHO A58/12),

Alarmed that globally and in some regions immunization coverage has increased only marginally since the early 1990s, and that in 2003 more than 27 million children worldwide were not immunized during their first year of life;

Recognizing that each year 1.4 million children under five years of age die from diseases preventable by currently available vaccines;

Further recognizing that each year an additional 2.6 million children under five years of age die because of diseases potentially preventable by new vaccines;

Welcoming the achievements of the accelerated disease-control initiatives against poliomyelitis, measles, and maternal and neonatal tetanus in immunizing previously unreached populations, and *noting* that these initiatives have established extensive networks on which surveillance for other disease and health trends can be built or expanded;

Concerned that, owing to financial, structural and/or managerial constraints, national immunization programmes fail to reach all children and women eligible for immunization, underuse many existing vaccines, and are not widely introducing new vaccines;

Emphasizing the need for all countries to strive towards achieving the internationally agreed development goal in the United Nations Millennium Declaration of reducing by two thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five child mortality rate;

Recalling the target of the United Nations General Assembly's twenty-seventh special session on children (2002) to ensure full immunization of children under one year of age, with at least 90% coverage nationally, and at least 80% coverage in every district or equivalent administrative unit;

Having considered the draft global immunization vision and strategy,

1. *Welcomes* the Global Immunization Vision and Strategy;

2. *Urges* countries:

(a) to meet immunization targets expressed in the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Children;

(b) to adopt the Global Immunization Vision and Strategy as the framework for strengthening of national immunization programmes between 2006 and 2015, with the goal of achieving greater equity in access to immunization, of improving access to existing and future vaccines, and of extending the benefits of vaccination linked with other health interventions to age groups beyond infancy;

(c) to ensure that immunization remains a priority on the national health agenda, and is supported by systematic planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation processes, and long-term financial commitment;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director:

(a) to work closely with the World Health Organization (WHO), Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI), and other partners to provide support to Member States in implementation of the Global Immunization Vision and Strategy;

(b) to strengthen relations at global, regional and subregional levels with WHO, GAVI and other partners in order to mobilize the needed resources for countries to implement the Global Immunization Vision and Strategy;

(c) to report regularly to the Executive Board on progress towards achievement of global immunization targets.

Annual session
9 June 2005

2005/8. Annual report of the Executive Director

The Executive Board,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Director: results achieved for children in 2004 in support of the medium-term strategic plan (MTSP) for 2002-2005, contained in document E/ICEF/2005/6;

2. *Recalls* its decision 2004/9 on the UNICEF evaluation function, which requests that key findings from evaluations of the thematic areas of the MTSP be presented and discussed at the Executive Board as and when these become available, and furthermore requests that they be fully integrated into the annual report of the Executive Director;

3. *Recognizes* the importance of results-based management to the fulfilment of the UNICEF mandate and to establishing and monitoring the UNICEF contribution to the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, and follow-up to the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Children;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to strengthen the analytical content of her annual reports to the Executive Board to include both qualitative and quantitative measures of progress against the MTSP targets, with a discussion of progress made, challenges and constraints encountered, lessons learned and issues arising for consideration and guidance, while bearing in mind official limits on the overall length of the report.

Annual session
10 June 2005

2005/9 Implementation of Executive Board decision 2002/4 on approval of country programmes

Recalling General Assembly resolution 59/250 of 22 December 2004 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, and *underlining* that further steps need to be taken to harmonize programming cycles and to synchronize them as far as possible with the national programming instruments, in

particular national poverty reduction strategies, including poverty reduction strategy papers where they exist;

1. *Takes note* of the review of the modified procedures for consideration and approval of proposals for country programmes of cooperation (E/ICEF/2005/8);

2. *Recognizes* the progress made in the implementation of Executive Board decision 2002/4 on the approval of country programmes and therefore *reconfirms* the validity of the current approval procedure;

3. *Stresses* the need to ensure the quality and results orientation of country programme documents as well as their alignment with national priorities in the areas of competence of all agencies involved;

4. *Welcomes* the inclusion of a results matrix in UNICEF country programme documents and *requests* that, if possible, draft results matrices be made available, for information, with the draft country programme documents provided for the consideration of the Executive Board;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director of UNICEF to present to the Executive Board at its annual session of 2006 a report elaborated jointly with the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund on possible options to further improve and streamline the current harmonized country programme approval procedure, so as to decrease the time frame for developing and approving country programmes and to better synchronize them with the length of cycle of the respective national country programming instruments, bearing in mind the need to maintain the institutional integrity and organizational mandate of each agency.

Annual session
10 June 2005

2005/10. Towards the elimination of violence against children and adolescents

The Executive Board

Recalling General Assembly resolution 59/250 of 22 December 2004 entitled "Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review of Operational Activities for Development of the United Nations System",

Recalling also the Declaration and Plan of Action of the twenty-seventh special session of the General Assembly entitled "A World Fit for Children" of 10 May 2002, which provides a framework for the protection of the child against violence and exploitation,

Taking note of the outcomes of all regional consultations in the context of the study of the Secretary General on violence against children,

Recognizing that violence against children and adolescents is a phenomenon that is affecting societies, including violence related to gang activities,

1. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to support Member States in their efforts to combat violence against children and adolescents;

2. *Decides* to include an oral report on UNICEF activities on violence related to children and adolescents in conflict with the law, including gang activities, in the agenda of the annual session of 2006.

Annual session
10 June 2005

2005/11. Draft country programme documents

The Executive Board

Approves the aggregate indicative budget for the following country programmes of cooperation:

		(In United States dollars)		
Country	*Period*	*Regular resources*	*Other resources*	*Document E/ICEF/2005/*
Swaziland	2006-2010	3 755 000	21 250 000	P/L.30
Cape Verde*	2006-2010	3 300 000	2 150 000	P/L.31 and Add.1
Chad	2006-2010	18 445 000	30 000 000	P/L.32
Democratic Republic of the Congo	2006-2007	43 858 000	50 000 000	P/L.33
Guyana	2006-2010	3 345 000	2 000 000	P/L.34
Indonesia	2006-2010	26 500 000	100 000 000	P/L.35
Islamic Republic of Afghanistan	2006-2008	41 397 000	126 000 000	P/L.36

* For this common country programme, the Board approves the UNICEF portion of the aggregate indicative budget.

Second regular session
29 September 2005

2005/12. Extension of cooperation with Rotary International for polio eradication and extension of the Vaccine Independence Initiative

The Executive Board

(a) *Approves* a five-year extension of the programme of cooperation with the PolioPlus programme of Rotary International for the period 2006 to 2010, in accordance with the terms of the original Board document (E/ICEF/1990/P/L.35), and an increase of $10 million in the other resources programme amount, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions from Rotary International;

(b) *Approves* a five-year extension of the Vaccine Independence Initiative for the period 2006 to 2010, in accordance with the terms of the original Board document (E/ICEF/1991/P/L.41).

Second regular session
29 September 2005

2005/13. Funds to cover overexpenditures of 22 programmes

The Executive Board

Approves funding from regular resources to cover the overexpenditures for the following programmes, as discussed in document E/ICEF/2005/P/L.38.

Programme/fund	*Amount* *(In United States dollars)*
Angola	83 368.10
Armenia	1 442.99
Burundi	244 603.52
Chile	54 482.92
Croatia	348.91
Democratic Republic of the Congo	5 053.87
Eastern Caribbean (multi-country programme)	351.22
Interregional fund for programme preparation, promotion and evaluation	14 544.03
Jordan	6 490.00
Kenya	24 240.33
Kosovo, Serbia and Montenegro	23 815.55
Lebanon	35 558.68
Mozambique	4 801.54
Pacific island countries	215 470.40
Palestinian children and mothers (Lebanon)	5 770.60
Paraguay	18 183.89
Programme fund for the 1990s goals	14 307.87

Regional support for programme preparation, promotion and evaluation	50 619.41
Somalia	189 895.72
Tajikistan	389.90
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	36 841.14
Yemen	30 616.04
Total	**1 061 196.63**

Second regular session
29 September 2005

2005/14. UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre: proposed activities for 2006-2008

The Executive Board,

Having reviewed the progress report on the UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre and its proposed activities for 2006-2008 (E/ICEF/2005/13),

1. *Welcomes* the research, advocacy and policy studies conducted by the Centre in the current programme and *endorses* the framework for further work, as contained in E/ICEF/2005/13;

2. *Authorizes* a three-year extension of the Centre's programme for the period 2006-2008 with a total allocation of $17 million in other resources, of which the Government of Italy has pledged to provide a minimum of EUR 5,430,000 (approximately $6.5 million) for the core activities of the Centre;

3. *Invites* all donors to contribute to the Centre's programme activities in order to meet the full cost of expenditures foreseen by the Centre for the implementation of its programme for the period 2006-2008.

Second regular session
29 September 2005

2005/15. Additional support budget allocation for 2005 for increased security costs

The Executive Board,

Approves a supplementary budget appropriation of $3 million to cover additional security-related costs in the 2004-2005 biennial support budget (E/ICEF/2005/AB/L.7), thus increasing from $14 million to $17 million the security-related costs for the biennium.

Second regular session
29 September 2005

2005/16. Advance support budget allocation for January 2006

The Executive Board,

Taking note of its decision 2004/7 (E/ICEF/2004/7/Rev.1 and E/ICEF/2004/AB/L.2) on the timing of the approval of the UNICEF biennial support budget,

1. *Approves* an interim one-month budget allocation for January 2006 in the amount of $25.6 million (E/ICEF/2005/AB/L.3), pending final approval of the biennial support budget for 2006-2007;

2. *Notes* that the interim allocation does not include any changes that may be proposed in the biennial support budget for 2006-2007;

3. *Agrees* that the interim budget allocation will be absorbed in the biennial support budget for 2006-2007.

Second regular session
29 September 2005

2005/17. Programme of work for Executive Board sessions in 2006

The Executive Board

Adopts the following programme of work for Executive Board sessions in 2006, subject to revisions as appropriate during the year:

2006	
first regular session 16-19 January	• Election of officers of the UNICEF Executive Board for 2006* • Annual report of the Executive Director to the Economic and Social Council* • Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit of relevance to UNICEF* • Approval of revised country programme documents (CPDs)* • Biennial support budget for 2006-2007* • Intercountry programmes* • Report on thematic funding to support implementation of the MTSP (E/ICEF/2005/5 (Part II), para. 11) • UNICEF health and nutrition strategy** • UNICEF water, sanitation and hygiene strategy for 2006-2015** • UNICEF education strategy: oral report** • UNICEF post-crisis transition strategy** • Private Sector Division (PSD) work plan and proposed budget for 2006* • Pledging event*
20, 23 January	• Joint meeting of the Executive Boards of UNICEF and UNDP/UNFPA, with the participation of WFP

Annual session 5-9 June	• Annual report of the Executive Director: progress and achievements against the medium-term strategic plan (MTSP)* • Draft CPDs* • Report on options to improve harmonized country programme approval process, prepared with UNDP and UNFPA (2005/9) • Implementation of joint programming (2005/3) • UNICEF engagement in sector-wide approaches (E/ICEF/2003/9/Rev.1, para. 31) • Progress report on the UNICEF evaluation function (2004/9) • Violence against children: oral report (2005/10) • UNICEF Maurice Pate Leadership Award* • Reports on field visits of Executive Board members*
Second regular session 5-8 September	• Decisions taken by the Economic and Social Council: oral report* • Draft CPDs (2002/4)* • Summaries of midterm reviews and major evaluations of country programmes* • Programme recommendations (additional resources for approved country programmes, other resources stand-alone, additional other resources, etc.)* • Follow-up to the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board* • UNICEF education strategy** • Financial medium-term plan for 2007-2010* • Review of UNICEF recovery policy (2003/9, deferred from second regular session 2005) • PSD financial report and statements for the year ended 31 December 2005* • Report to the United Nations Board of Auditors and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions* • Report on internal audit activities in 2005* • Programme of work for Executive Board sessions in 2007-2008*

* Statutory request.
** Proposal by the secretariat.

Second regular session
30 September 2005

2005/18. Medium-term strategic plan for 2006-2009, including the financial medium-term plan

The Executive Board,

1. *Welcomes* the medium-term strategic plan (MTSP) (E/ICEF/2005/11), including the medium-term financial plan, as a flexible guiding framework for UNICEF action covering the period 2006-2009, which reaffirms the centrality of the United Nations country programming approach, recognizing national ownership in the process, and which will contribute to the outcomes of the General Assembly Special Session on Children and to the wider fulfilment of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals;

2. *Approves* the organizational focus areas set forth in the plan, taking into account the particularities of each country's situation;

3. *Approves* the MTSP and its financial plan as a flexible guiding framework of projections for 2005-2009 (summarized in annex III, table 3), including the preparation of $697 million in programme expenditures from regular resources in programmes to be submitted to the Executive Board in 2006. The amount is subject to revision based on the availability of resources and to the condition that estimates of income and expenditure made in this plan continue to be valid;

4. *Approves* the transfer to the funded reserve of $20 million per year for after-service health insurance for 2005 and 2006 and $10 million per year for 2007-2009, to be adjusted on the basis of financial projections;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to assess progress towards the key results established in the MTSP in her annual report, bearing in mind Executive Board decision 2005/8 (E/ICEF/2005/5, Part II), and where necessary to propose adjustments for approval by the Executive Board.

Second regular session
30 September 2005

2005/19. UNICEF follow-up to the recommendations of the Global Task Team on improving AIDS Coordination

The Executive Board,

1. *Takes note* of document E/ICEF/2005/12 on the UNICEF implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS);

2. *Endorses* the recommendations of the Global Task Team on Improving AIDS Coordination among Multilateral Institutions and International Donors, and furthermore *endorses* all the related decisions of the PCB;

3. *Requests* UNICEF to develop appropriate action plans, in collaboration with the UNAIDS secretariat and other co-sponsors, and to maintain the momentum created by the Global Task Team, within the specified time frames;

4. *Requests* UNICEF, together with UNAIDS and other relevant development partners, to report on progress in implementing the Global Task Team's recommendations at the joint meeting of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund, UNICEF and the World Food Programme in January 2006, and at a special session during the June 2006 meeting of the PCB;

5. *Notes* the emphasis on support to country-level action and strengthening national responses and encourages UNICEF to provide effective technical support to national Governments and focus on their respective areas of comparative advantage;

6. *Requests* UNICEF to work with the UNAIDS secretariat to intensify HIV prevention by developing an action plan based on the UNAIDS policy position paper, *Intensifying HIV Prevention*;

7. *Notes* that this will require coordination and harmonization of efforts and a clear division of responsibilities with the UNAIDS secretariat and with other co-sponsors and coordination with national and global stakeholders.

Second regular session
30 September 2005

2005/20. Joint meetings of the Executive Boards of UNICEF, UNDP/UNFPA and WFP

The Executive Board,

Encourages the joint meetings of the Executive Boards of UNICEF, the United Nations Development Programme/the United Nations Population Fund and the World Food Programme to discuss and comment on one country case as a practical illustration of joint United Nations work in the field, and *invites* the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes taking part in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework to participate in this joint exercise.

Second regular session
30 September 2005

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